



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**4<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 15**

**14<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

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## **HANSARD**

**Monday, October 29, 2001**

Pages 477 – 514

**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**



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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, October 29, 2001

### Members Present

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

### ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Please be seated. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, your point of order.

### Point of Order

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order under Rule 23(m). Mr. Speaker, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes, in his Member's statement on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, made reference to a Supreme Court justice and comments made on the matter of elections by secret vote. Mr. Speaker, without the benefit of the transcript, I had thought Mr. Ootes was referring to a decision of the Supreme Court on election matters. I was concerned that Mr. Ootes might have been breaking our rules with respect to sub-judiciary but I was not aware of any court case dealing with secret ballots before our Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, I decided to review the unedited Hansard at the first opportunity when I noted the reference Mr. Ootes was making in respect to the Supreme Court justice. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ootes' comments concerned me. I would like to quote those comments as contained on page 1079 of the unedited Hansard:

The Supreme Court justice commented to me a while back, Mr. Speaker, his feelings of disgust that we still have leadership elections by secret vote. Poignant words of someone of the stature of a Supreme Court justice.

Mr. Speaker, it is very disturbing to me -- and I expect to the Supreme Court justice -- to hear his comments repeated in the Legislative Assembly on a political issue that could be an issue that could go before the courts. Mr. Speaker, I request your ruling on whether Mr. Ootes has breached our rules by offending the practices and precedents of the House by crossing the lines that separate the legislative branch of government from the judiciary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Member raises a point of order on a matter that was discussed in the House on Friday. I will allow some debate on the point of order. Do any other honourable Members have anything to add to that? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do want the transcript of the tapes checked because it is my belief that I said "a Supreme Court justice stated" and I did not

identify a Supreme Court justice as being a Supreme Court justice of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the point of order. No other debate? The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty. No? Any other debate on the point of order? I will take this under advisement and reserve judgment on that point of order. Mr. Dent, I will deal with the matter at the earliest convenience.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Handley.

### ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

#### Minister's Statement 42-14(4): Tentative Agreement Reached Between the NWT Teachers' Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that on Saturday evening, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association reached a tentative collective agreement.

The two-year tentative deal was achieved with the assistance of a mediator. We have been advised by the NWTTA that their target for completing ratification by the membership is November 7, 2001. The key features of the tentative agreement include:

- salary increases of 3 percent in the first year and 2.5 percent in the second year;
- a yearly professional allowance of \$750;
- adjustments to northern allowance rates to account for changes in the cost of living; and
- parental leave for both natural and adoptive parents increased from six months to up to one year to coincide with changes to the federal Employment Insurance Act.

Mr. Speaker, although the tentative agreement was achieved with the assistance of a mediator, the success of the collective bargaining process always comes down to a sincere desire by the parties to reach an agreement and to do the work it takes to get there. I appreciate the commitment of both the NWTTA and the GNWT bargaining teams and look forward to the results of the ratification vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

**Minister's Statement 43-14(4): Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Government of the Northwest Territories has approved the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Beaufort-Delta region. I look forward to signing this important document on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories once the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the federal government have also formally approved the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement-in-principle is the first stand-alone self-government agreement in the history of the Northwest Territories. It was initialled by negotiators for this government, the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit and Canada on October 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year in Inuvik. By initialling the agreement, the negotiators recommended it to their various principals for their consideration. I am pleased that our government was able to complete its internal review thoroughly and quickly.

Once the agreement has been approved by all parties, they will arrange for a signing ceremony and that will most likely take place sometime early in the new year.

Mr. Speaker, following the formal signing of the agreement-in-principle, I will table this historic document in the Legislative Assembly. After the agreement has been signed, it will be published and made available to all interested parties and will provide a basis for informed public comment. Such comment and discussion will assist the parties in negotiating a final agreement.

Mr. Speaker, negotiations for this self-government agreement-in-principle have been ongoing for more than five years. The agreement proposes a regional government that will represent and serve all residents in the Beaufort-Delta communities. It also proposes new community governments that will represent and serve all residents in each community. Finally, the agreement provides for regional aboriginal governments for the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit. These governments will enjoy increased law-making authority in jurisdictions such as education, social services, training, justice and municipal affairs.

Mr. Speaker, having reached this milestone in the implementation of self-government in the Northwest Territories, the three parties can begin negotiations towards a final agreement, implementation plans and financing agreements. This government fully supports the aboriginal inherent right of self-government and will work hard to see that self-government in the Beaufort-Delta region becomes a reality. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 2, Minister's statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Minister's Statement 44-14(4): Business Program Review**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, a major recommendation in the Common Ground strategy prepared by the Economic Strategy Panel last year was to streamline access to

government lending programs and services. To address this recommendation, I established the Business Program Review Committee last year to look at ways to reduce duplication and simplify application processes. I am pleased to report that substantial progress has been made in meeting these objectives.

The Business Program Review Committee recently completed consultations and has produced a report on consolidating Government of the Northwest Territories business assistance programs. The committee held meetings in all regional centres and surveyed existing clients of the programs under review to encourage input on program delivery and options to improve delivery.

The main recommendation of the committee is to create a new arm's-length corporation to deliver RWED programs and services currently provided by the Business Credit Corporation, the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, Canada-Northwest Territories Business Service Centre and Community Futures organizations.

The report is being distributed to all MLAs and stakeholders and comments on the recommendations are requested by December 15. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development will then develop a plan to implement the recommendations. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Business Program Review Committee for their work in developing these recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**Minister's Statement 45-14(4): Community Airport Safety Video**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that the Department of Transportation has released a video entitled Community Airport Safety. The video is intended to serve as a tool for use in the communities to improve people's awareness and understanding of airport safety and security matters.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the video is to show that everyone who lives in a community has a contribution to make in helping to keep their airport a safe place for airplane operations, traveling passengers and local residents. It is our hope that community leaders, educators, workers and the general public will watch this video and recognize how important their cooperation can be in ensuring that their airports operate as safely as possible.

The video is available in all the Northwest Territories' official languages, making it accessible to all Northerners in every community.

I would like to congratulate all the people who contributed to the making of this video, including department staff, our airport contractors, the production team and especially the people in the communities where the video was shot.

In making this video, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation calls attention to the special importance of our airports in the daily life of our communities. The Department of

Transportation hopes that with the added awareness and assistance of community residents, we can make the already admirable level of safety and security at our community airports even better yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement on Actions of Senior Civil Servants (Ruled Out of Order)

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address my colleagues, my constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the events of the last week have taken their toll on everyone. I would like to state that I have taken the opportunity to allow the Premier the benefit of the doubt and have spoken directly with the Premier with regard to the problem that I have.

Mr. Speaker, the problem I have is how top officials are dealt with when involved in wrongdoing. In the case of unauthorized taping and of participation of a telephone conversation, I am asking that public action be taken to demonstrate accountability of the government. That public action needs to be immediate to restore the trust of the people of the Northwest Territories.

The Premier has informed me...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Krutko, I have to interrupt you on your Member's statement. You are dealing with an issue that has been dealt with and debated before the House over the past week and the matter had been concluded. The rules, as you may be aware, do not allow for the continuous and repetitive raising of matters that have been decided during the current session. I am going to have to ask you to refrain from making that statement, Mr. Krutko.

-- Interjection

It is not debatable. Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### Member's Statement on Members' Code of Conduct

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of all the activities in the last week, I have a message I want to give to the people in the gallery, our elders and the people back home.

On January 19, 2000, we as MLAs all swore an oath regarding our code of conduct as Members of the Legislative Assembly. I quote:

As a legislator elected to govern the Northwest Territories, I will strive to do my utmost to hear the voices of all our people; to provide legislation, policies and services for the good of the people and individuals, families and communities.

As a legislator, I will do my best to fulfil my duties to the Legislature, the public, my constituents and my colleagues with integrity and honour.

To my constituents, I owe my best efforts at reflective representation as well as accountability, honesty, fairness and courtesy.

To the Legislature, I owe respect as well as dedication to my role in ensuring the integrity of our government and in earning through my actions the confidence of the people.

To the public, I owe a responsibility to work for all for the well-being of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

I will not act nor condone others in acting in ways which exploit slander or discriminate against others.

I will not act nor condone others in acting in ways which are dishonest or which exploit positions of privilege for personal gain.

So long as I am a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I will be true to these obligations and I will work to preserve the greatness of our land and our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### Member's Statement on the Need for Closure on Recent Controversial Events

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the weekend, I had the good fortune to be able to go home for a 36-hour furlough and spend some time in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I can tell this House that a lot of people in Fort Smith have been riveted to the TV, radio and the newspapers, tracking what has been happening in Yellowknife and in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, there is significant concern as to what is happening and how it will all end up. The message I received very clearly from the people is that this issue that is before the House has been on the table a long time. We have been very intensely involved with it over the last week and there is a strong sense that we should be seeking closure, that we should be, as a Legislature, trying to put these matters to rest and close this unfortunate chapter in the life of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly and get back to the business at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I have assured my constituents that they and I share the same view. It is my hope that they will be reassured over the next couple of days that in fact this Legislature will do just that; close this unfortunate chapter and let us get back to the business at hand of governing the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

### Member's Statement on Government Accountability

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I as well had the opportunity to go home for a night and spend some time with my family. It was an opportunity to get away from what was happening here and to re-evaluate what one is doing and why are we involved in government, as we speak, and what we are trying to do to benefit our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, when I got into the airport in Inuvik and my youngest son ran to me to give me a hug, I was once again reminded of why I initially became involved in government at this level. It was to look forward to what we can offer our constituents and our children.

Mr. Speaker, the last week of business in this House unfortunately has been very negative on the calendar and on the minds of many in the Northwest Territories. When I was at home, I had to ask myself are we doing the right thing here? At the risk of sounding, as some would put it, a little twisted, I have to say that when I looked at why I was here, Mr. Speaker, I still looked at what we are going to leave for our children and for the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, what I think and what I believe I would like to leave is a Legislature, in the minds of those when we are done here, as one that we tried to do our best for our residents, not only in talking about programs and services, but in following what we set before us as rules and as laws for the land and its people.

It has not been an easy task, Mr. Speaker, to stand up and question integrity, question government programs and services, but there is a role, Mr. Speaker, when we do that. That is to make sure that the residents of the Northwest Territories are getting the best out of their legislators, those whom they have sent here to represent them, those who do not have a voice out there who cannot be organized to do things in a manner that is easily done when you have a fax machine or a cell phone.

Mr. Speaker, I stand again reconfirmed with what I came down here to do, and that is to make sure our government is a good government and accountable. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

### Member's Statement on Fees for Marriage Licences

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a matter that is of importance to one of my constituents that has to do with the amount of fee that this constituent receives for administering and issuing a marriage licence. I have learned from talking to him that for every licence he issues he gets \$25 and then he has to return \$15 back to the government.

He has pursued this issue with the Minister of Health and Social Services and other Ministers of this government and the answer he has been receiving is that because the fee structure is legislated in law, it would require legislative changes and the Minister was not prepared to do that at that time.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take this opportunity to advise the Minister of Justice and the new Minister, whoever that may be, of Health and Social Services, to ask them to revisit this issue. I do not think it takes a lot of argument that \$15 for something like issuing a licence does not go far enough. My constituent has indicated to me that it does not even cover the ribbon or tape that he needs to print the thing out of the computer. I would like to put the government on notice that I would like to have this done, in the hope that this will make it to the legislative agenda before the end of this term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

### Member's Statement on Recent Events in the Legislature (Ruled Out of Order)

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was intending to make my statement today on water quality, but I do not believe that anybody is listening to those types of issues anymore, so I am going to try to make a few comments on the events that have happened in the last little while, choosing my words very carefully, Mr. Speaker.

I have watched with interest as this process has developed over the last while from a conflict complaint to a complaint of bias, to an investigation and to the report where we are today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this whole process has taken eight months. Eight months of our time where issues have been put on the backburner. During that whole time, I was of the opinion that we were heading to where common sense would take over. Since I have had an opportunity to review the recommendations of the special committee, I am of the opinion that we have to demonstrate that we support this government. I do not have a problem stating I do support.

However, I have a problem with the process. I do not believe that we as Members of this House should be in a position where we have to publicly declare our position, especially if we are in a position where we would be announcing our candidacy or in a position as a potential candidate for Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, a confidence vote or non-confidence vote is a weapon that we have...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Sorry, Mr. McLeod, you hit the wrong words there. You were not careful enough. I just have to remind Members that you cannot speak in anticipation of a motion that is before the House, as you are aware. Thank you.

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

### Member's Statement on Efforts to Achieve Good Governance

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we were all elected to this government, we were elected to this Legislature as a government that is unique in Canada. It is a consensus government, Mr. Speaker. A consensus government that the people of the Northwest Territories insisted that that is the style of government we want.

Since I have been here, I have worked with my colleagues on this side of the House and my Cabinet colleagues on a number of different initiatives, some of them very worthwhile. I have been co-chairing the Caucus, which had set direction for this government. I still believe that direction will be achieved. I chair the special committee that is reviewing the Official Languages Act, which is very important to many, many people in the Northwest Territories. I worked diligently with my committee and staff in coming up with terms of reference and a process that people have bought into very clearly. Last week, Monday, we had our first languages conference.

I sit on the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development that is reviewing major bills, one of them being the highway toll. I sit on the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, Mr. Speaker, which all Regular Members sit on. The main responsibility of that is ensuring good governance.

Today, I rise to assure my constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories that my actions in the next couple of days will be towards good governance, Mr. Speaker. With that, I thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

#### **Member's Statement on Annual Meeting of the Native Women's Association**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories began their annual meeting, which I attended. As the Member for Sahtu, I wanted to comment about the occasion.

The theme was "restoring our families and rebuilding our future." Mr. Speaker, women from the Inuvialuit communities, from the Gwich'in, from the Sahtu, the Deh Cho, the Dogrib communities, the Akaitcho, Metis women and women from across this country and the Northwest Territories gathered to talk about their concerns and their issues. There was food, some tears and a lot of laughter. There was some sadness. There was reading of poetry and some singing. There was some dancing and, Mr. Speaker, I had the occasion to dance with every president of the Women's Association from its inception until today.

There were gifts. There was a fashion show and there were awards. Each of them took time to recognize in each of their communities and in their regions those women who continue to reach out to help others, to help their colleagues, to help their families, their relatives, the women and children and the elders around them.

Gathered there were healers and caregivers, leaders, chiefs, businesswomen, and the youth. Gifts of tobacco and eagle feathers were given. They commented that in the course of our work in the North in our communities over the years, it is clearly evident that our women have suffered, our women have...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi, your time for Member's statement has expired.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I talked to them about what it meant for me to look in the past when we say "restoring our families", because many of us come from homes where alcoholism and family violence and abuse has been present. There is a lot of pain if you look back for too long. The only way you can manage that is if you move into the last part of their theme, which is "rebuilding our future".

The only way you can live with yourself is if you do as these women have committed themselves to do day after day, year after year; work towards rebuilding, rebuilding our families and rebuilding our futures.

It was a good time and it was a healing time for myself to be present with all these people, which form 50 percent of the aboriginal population here in the Northwest Territories. Elder Katherine Mitchell from Inuvik came over and asked to sit with me and sat beside me for the entire evening. I wanted to acknowledge the incredible experience that I had on Friday night. That like our elders, women too look to people like myself and every Member of this Legislature to provide leadership and to carry their hopes and dreams for them because there is so much that we can do. Thank you very much. Mahsi.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I only have 30 seconds. I cannot leave anyone out here. I would like to let the House know I have constituents here. There are 81 of them I can see. There could be more behind me. There are four chiefs there from my riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Welcome, chiefs. The honourable Member for Weledeh, item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everyone who is in the gallery, but particularly Chief Rick Edjericon, Chief Peter Liske and all of the other residents of Weledeh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honour of introducing Mr. Rob Tordiff and his wife, Sylvie. He is the president of the South Slave Metis Tribal Council. This week, I have the pleasure again of

introducing and recognizing Mr. Rob Tordiff and his wife, Sylvie, but as well, the latest addition to their family, who looks pretty healthy. Looks like maybe a boy dressed in blue. I would like to welcome all three of them to the Assembly and wish them a long life and happiness.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a former colleague of this House and someone I had the opportunity to sit beside in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Mr. James Rabesca. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Robert Alexie, who is the executive director of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board and my constituency assistant, Renie Francis. I would also like to invite everybody to Fort McPherson on December 21<sup>st</sup> for their wedding.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of people I would like to recognize. I likely will not be able to recognize all of them, obviously, because I cannot see behind us. Doug Nelson, the manager of the Royal Bank here in Yellowknife; Pat McMahan, I saw her a moment ago; Don Yamkowsky; Barb Bromley; Ruth Spence; and David Murphy is in the back there, the president of the NWTTA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very, very moving to see everyone in the gallery. The ones I can recognize are Mr. Gord and Bernadette Stewart, very prominent businesspeople in the city of Yellowknife. I see Mr. Dave Connelly. I see Mr. Paul Smith, who lives in my riding. I see Don Yamkowsky and Ms. Pat Mracek. I would like to recognize them for being here and to thank them for being here.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with everyone else, it is very gratifying to see everyone here. I would like to recognize someone else from the business community in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Joe McBryan, and I believe another former Member of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Wah-Shee.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes, indeed, there are two former Members, Mr. Rabesca and Mr. Wah-Shee from former

Assemblies. Welcome to the gallery, gentlemen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today must be a special day in the House to have so many visitors. I would like to welcome all of them. I just wanted to mention Bill Erasmus, the national chief of the Dene Nation is here. I would like to recognize him. Eliza Charlo-Pepper, the president of the Native Women's Association. Other people have been recognized and I would also like to recognize some of the elders. Mahsi, especially Alexis Arrowmaker. I would like to recognize him, a former colleague of mine as a chief. Joe Migwi is here as well. I would like to recognize them and thank them all for coming here today. Mahsi.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since my colleague for Hay River North does not have eyes in the back of his head, he does not see one of his favourite constituents in the gallery, Joe McBryan, but he is from Hay River North.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** He probably does not recognize him by his real name. He probably calls him Buffalo Joe. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to welcome everybody and recognize every member of the public who have taken time to make sure they are available to watch us in the conduct of our duties today. Thank you very much for coming. Mahsi.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize former Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner, the Honourable Dan Marion.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Any further recognition of visitors in the gallery? As a Member for Kam Lake, I would like to recognize a constituent and former member of the CBC, Ms. Patricia Russell.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** No further recognitions of visitors in the gallery? I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the Members to thank you for coming to the Assembly. Just a reminder that we are open everyday from 1:30 to 6:00. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS****Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It is regarding the long-awaited decision for the Fort McPherson water treatment improvement system to be enacted. It was supposed to be completed in July, yet the snow is falling, the ferries have been pulled out and the rivers are freezing. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what date does he have for final conclusion of the water project in Fort McPherson so we can have some safe drinking water?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am pleased to provide the Member with the details. We are fairly confident that the new water system will be in effect, operational at the end of November. I hope there are no further delays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me what action is being taken by his department to ensure that the THM contamination at the treatment plant that presently exists, what is the department doing to ensure the public that treatment would be flushed out or cleared or before any new water is provided to that treatment facility?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that all the preliminary work has been completed here. I am not sure at what stage it is at the moment, but from my understanding and with the knowledge from the department, all work-related plans are being conformed with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if they have informed the residents of Fort McPherson that they will also have to take action to clean out their existing water tanks in their homes so that they are not contaminated?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will ensure that the department informs all residents that one of the first steps will be to clean out their own water tanks. If there is any assistance required, we will then work with the Departments of Health and Social Services and Public Works and Services to put out a communication strategy that would address that key question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me exactly when did he intend to carry out this activity? Is it going to be before or after the new facility has come on-line?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 147-14(4): Fort McPherson Water Treatment Project**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that we develop a communication strategy that would permit a brief transition period where we would be able to commission the water supply and, in between, have the houses drain all their water tanks, do the tank cleaning and then we will be able to begin to deliver fresh new water sources to the residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 148-14(4): Home Repairs Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Housing, the Honourable Roger Allen. I would like to ask the Minister, with the partnerships with aboriginal groups and all the different programs that are being delivered in the Northwest Territories, the decision on home repairs being delivered, can the Minister tell me who has the ultimate say on when the programs are delivered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 148-14(4): Home Repairs Programs**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, if there is agreement with the communities, we put the funds into the communities to deliver the programs for the corporation. Where there is not an entity in the community that can do that, we will

do that. Each community, Mr. Speaker, gets a certain amount of funding each year to do program delivery. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 148-14(4): Home Repairs Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity of visiting some of my constituents on the weekend because of the concerns that were brought to me. I would like to ask the Minister if his department can look into that and see if the programs are being delivered on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 148-14(4): Home Repairs Programs**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are currently reviewing some of our basic policies to see if there is adequate delivery systems in place and where there is to be some questions by the Members here, we will fulfil that obligation to review and reply back. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 148-14(4): Home Repairs Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can accompany me to Rae-Edzo pretty soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. This deals with housing, Mr. Lafferty? The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 148-14(4): Home Repairs Programs**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am always looking forward to travelling with the honourable Member to his communities. I would oblige myself to that question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 149-14(4): Commitments to Kakisa Fishermen**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Earlier this year, a report that stated the commercial fishing stocks in Tathlina and Kakisa Lakes were in trouble. We had the Minister come down and meet with the community of Kakisa and talk to the leaders and the commercial fishermen there. He had committed to a follow-up to meet with the commercial fishermen of that community. I would like to ask the Minister of the status of what he has done in terms of meeting with the commercial fishermen? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 149-14(4): Commitments to Kakisa Fishermen**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have a Great Slave Lake Fisheries Strategy that is being considered by the fishermen. It includes provisions in there for the fishermen from Kakisa. I am waiting for the Fishermen's Association to get back to me on what they want to do with that strategy. In the meantime, I will continue to pursue the commitments I made to the people in Kakisa. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 149-14(4): Commitments to Kakisa Fishermen**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to ask the Minister if it is in his plans to go into the community of Kakisa and explain the Great Slave Lake Fisheries Strategy and discuss with them some of the commitments he made as to compensation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 149-14(4): Commitments to Kakisa Fishermen**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be pleased to go to Kakisa, follow up on the meeting -- the two meetings that I had there -- and work with the fishermen from that community, where we can go from here, what subsidies or whatever we can handle next year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 149-14(4): Commitments to Kakisa Fishermen**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One final question. I have to ask the Minister, when can we expect him to visit in terms of a time frame? Is it next month? Is it over the December Christmas holidays or early next year? Could he indicate when?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 149-14(4): Commitments to Kakisa Fishermen**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, as soon as it can be arranged with the fishermen in the communities, probably shortly after this House recesses. I expect we can do it in November. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**Question 150-14(4): GNWT Response to Cuff Recommendations**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Department of Health and Social Services commissioned a study, a very controversial study called the Cuff report. The Cuff report came out with recommendations. A lot of people in the Northwest Territories who were interviewed feel that their ideas and concerns were not reflected in the report to begin with, Mr. Speaker. The subsequent recommendations ask for grand scale changes to the way governance system on how programs and services should be delivered for the Department of Health and Social Services.

We have not heard boo for a long time, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister give us an update on the status of those recommendations resulting from the Cuff report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Antoine.

**Return to Question 150-14(4): GNWT Response to Cuff Recommendations**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have taken over the portfolio of Health and Social Services in the last few days. I had a briefing with the deputy minister. I have been working with the previous Minister of Health and Social Services. She has been working very hard on this initiative, of looking at health, the health boards and the way we deliver health in the Northwest Territories.

There has been a lot of work since the Cuff report. I know the department has been working towards a revitalization of an action plan. The Minister was on the verge of tabling a draft action plan when the events of last week unfolded. As a result, I have since been briefed with the deputy minister and his staff. Their work should continue.

The draft action plan is not ready to be tabled. I would prefer to hold off until the events that started to unfold last week run their course, hopefully the end of the week, and we know who is going to take full responsibility for this portfolio. It is a major initiative. I think that whoever is going to take over the responsibility should be hands-on.

In the meantime, I have instructed the department to carry on with the work that the previous Minister was doing. At this point in time, there is not going to be any draft action plan tabled. At the appropriate time, it will probably be actioned. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary to Question 150-14(4): GNWT Response to Cuff Recommendations**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The events of the last week or so have put the question in the minds of a lot of people in the Northwest Territories that the government has come to a complete stall. I would like to think that the departments are continuing to roll along just as before, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Minister guarantee the House that there has been some action taken on the recommendations resulting from the Cuff report? That because of what has been happening the last few days that has not stopped? One of the recommendations that was made public was that there was no substance. Is the department putting substance to those recommendations as we speak, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 150-14(4): GNWT Response to Cuff Recommendations**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a tremendous amount of work has gone into this initiative. There is work continuing. We have not stalled on this but at this point in time, I just wanted to state that on September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Minister had announced a broad direction for revitalization of the health and social services system was in place. That direction was based on the analysis of the recommendations in the health and social services review entitled It's Time to Act, with public input and consultation with other ministries of this government. A commitment was made to table an action plan during this session of the Legislative Assembly detailing how the broad direction announced on September 17<sup>th</sup> would be implemented.

As I stated, because of the events over the last week, we will see what happens in the next few days. I have not been told by the department whether this draft action plan is ready to be tabled, but we were working on it and we will let you know as soon as I have further information on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 151-14(4): Rent Ceiling for Income Support Clients**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in the area of income support. It relates to the housing market in the city of Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker. We have a very vibrant economy right now in the city. One of the consequences is the pressure on vacancies and the cost of rent. I wanted to ask specifically in that area because of the impact, of course, on government budgets and things as rents go up. Does the department have any ceilings or restrictions at this time on the amounts paid for rent to income support clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 151-14(4): Rent Ceiling for Income Support Clients**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy is that we provide public housing for income support individuals. In the event that public housing is not available, then we go to the private sector. Mr. Speaker, we provide the cost of housing, whatever that may be. Additionally, we supply and pay for the cost of fuel as well as electricity for those on income support. The Member's question being is there a ceiling on that? No,

Mr. Speaker, not at the present time and we do not anticipate any. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary to Question 151-14(4): Rent Ceiling for Income Support Clients**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow through on the Minister's final remark that none are anticipated, this is contrary with some information that I have that new regulations and new amounts are being considered to go into effect as early as the first of November, two days from now, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister confirm that indeed no caps or limits will be forthcoming for income support clients? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 151-14(4): Rent Ceiling for Income Support Clients**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, we do not have an intent of limiting the amount of the housing allowance for income support clients. Naturally, we do try to adjust in terms of space available for families, the size of a family and so forth, and for others -- large families, small families -- it depends on the availability of units, of course. We are naturally not prepared to put a mother with one child into a four-bedroom house, for example. However, Mr. Speaker, the intent -- if there was such and I am not familiar with it -- is certainly not to cap it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the talk recently about education and the achievements made by students compared to the national averages has reminded me of an issue that I raised with my colleagues here when business plans were going through in a previous year and then followed up with the Minister in the area of the level of programming that we have within the NWT. For example, Mr. Speaker, right now we have a general program, I believe it was qualified as, where students in high school go into 16, 26, 36 level courses whether it be math, social studies or those areas.

I would like to know if the Minister and his department have done anything to change this because it does not meet the requirements of students nowadays. My concern is that there are a lot of students, especially when you look at the amount of aboriginal students that are in that program. I would like to know if his department has done anything to improve programming in that area to make sure that students taking those courses in our high school system are going to achieve a grade 12 diploma and be able to work with that diploma? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we worked over the summer and into the past month and a half to look at the whole issue of pathways and the strength of those programs and the versatility for students to be able to use the programs so that they can continue on in high school and complete high school with a diploma that allows them to stream into the appropriate areas, such as perhaps university or college, into apprenticeships or into the workforce, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister elaborate on what was done to the programming areas to improve on what was happening in previous years? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot elaborate in terms of the details but I can certainly get that for the Member. My officials were working on it to bring forward a strengthened process that students have the ability to move on throughout high school so that we do not have the dropout situation that is occurring now and the ability to stream into specific areas, pathways. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister then make that available to Members of this Assembly and myself? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that I would like to follow, and what we normally do, is to brief Cabinet on these matters first. Then, once I have Cabinet approval, we will no doubt be consulting with Members and proceeding from there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to a time line when we will be able to see this move forward? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 152-14(4): Improving Remedial Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are working on that, as I stated. We worked through the summer and into the fall. I expect within several months that we will be in a position to proceed on making this available. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 153-14(4): Reinstatement of Capital Projects**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Steen, regarding dollars that were transferred from my constituency to the Inuvik riding of Boot Lake. This refers to the cancellation of two projects in my riding, which included the culvert replacement project and highway widening.

After questioning the Minister in the House, the Minister stated that he would look at reinstating those programs if there was additional resources or implementing them in regard to the new plan.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Transportation, what has he done to consider the reinstatement of these projects into the budgetary process?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Return to Question 153-14(4): Reinstatement of Capital Projects**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information before me at this time. I will take the question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question today is to the Minister of MACA. I had the opportunity to meet with the community of Enterprise earlier this year and they indicated to me that there was a survey being undertaken from the Department of MACA raising questions about service delivery and quality of service. Could he tell me what the purpose of the survey is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the purpose of the survey was to find out if the communities were satisfied with the level of service that the department is providing to the various communities across the Northwest Territories. There are a number of reports back and further analysis has been completed but I am not sure what the status is of that as of today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister why he felt it was necessary to hire a southern firm to conduct this survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the details as to why it may have gone outside our borders, but I will confirm that back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister has indicated, he will be getting back to us regarding this issue. I would like to also ask him if he could report to us what this whole survey is costing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I am prepared to provide the full detail of the report and the cost to the Members. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I have to ask the Minister as to what the time frame is. When can we expect to see results? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 154-14(4): Service Delivery Survey in Enterprise**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not delay the response time. I will ensure today, after session, that I will contact the department to provide the adequate information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**Question 155-14(4): Elimination of Chief of Staff Position**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard earlier today unconfirmed reports that Cabinet has eliminated the position of chief of staff. I was wondering if the Premier could advise the House whether or not that is in fact the case?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Return to Question 155-14(4): Elimination of Chief of Staff Position**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Special Committee on Conflict Process presented recommendations. The fourth recommendation was voted on by all Members of this House, that I take immediate measures to restore the confidence of the public in the office of the Premier and the Cabinet. I have asked staff to prepare some preliminary organizational plans.

The next morning, Thursday, we started the work. Today was the first occasion I had the opportunity to discuss this with Cabinet. This morning, Cabinet approved a move to reorganize the senior staff around the Cabinet, such as the principal secretary, and it included a decision to eliminate the position of chief of staff.

That will happen in the next few days. Ms. Sorensen will be offered a position to work as my personal assistant once the reorganizational plan has been put in place and implemented.

Unfortunately, there was no access to the Members who were busy with their own business this morning so I could not get the opportunity to bring it directly to the Members. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 155-14(4): Elimination of Chief of Staff Position**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the position of chief of staff was created not long ago, just after this government came into place. It was a bit of a controversy. The Premier fought very hard for the position, citing how important it would be to the operation of the public. Can he explain how the functions of that office are now going to be fulfilled? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. May I ask which office we are speaking of? The Chair did not quite understand what the question was. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not being totally clear. A year and a half ago, the Premier fought very hard for the establishment of the office of chief of staff. Now the office itself is being eliminated, if I heard his answer to my previous question correctly. My question is, who or what office will be performing the functions that were performed by the office of the chief of staff?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Further Return to Question 155-14(4): Elimination of Chief of Staff Position**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I have, in different forums, indicated to the Members that I was prepared to make changes. I asked for time to deal with this in some form that would bring dignity and confidence to my office and to have that provided to the staff. Members know there has been tremendous pressure and duress on the staff involved. Mr. John Bayly has resigned as of last week. We have had no time to put an organizational plan together.

The chief of staff position, as I said, will be eliminated. Ms. Sorensen will be reassigned if she accepts the offer. Cabinet is going to make the decision to do the reorganizing. I have brought this to Cabinet and Cabinet will look at ways to reorganize and realign the offices. For the present time, Ms. Sorensen will continue to provide the service she is providing to us.

There is no principal secretary at this time, as Members know, and I need, and Cabinet needs, some staff to provide us the service we need. That will be provided over the next week. There is literally no information other than that available, Mr. Speaker. Members have asked for immediate action. We are trying to indicate the degree to which we are willing to comply. It does expose the fact that this is happening far more quickly than I would have liked.

I would have liked to take time, as I said, to deal with it with some dignity and have a transition plan. However, because Members have asked for some indication, we made the announcement this morning. Cabinet will review the options available to it in the next week and we will be keeping the Members informed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 155-14(4): Elimination of Chief of Staff Position**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to confirm, I believe I heard the Premier a couple of times in his response mention the time frame of a week. Is that the expected time frame in which the Premier expects things to be resolved?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Further Return to Question 155-14(4): Elimination of Chief of Staff Position**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I have used a week because this is what Cabinet thought, at the very minimum, we

would require. We wanted to make some announcements because Members want to know how much change is being contemplated. I think Members are well aware now of the degree to which we are moving to comply with the motion that we voted on together last week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Final supplementary -- no supplementary? Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Question 156-14(4): Reconfirming Highway No. 3 as a Priority**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation, the Honourable Vince Steen. Last week in question period, the Minister agreed that he would give direction to his department to tell them that Highway No. 3 would be a priority over Highway No. 4. I would like to ask the Minister what has he done in that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

#### **Return to Question 156-14(4): Reconfirming Highway No. 3 as a Priority**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have followed up the questions with meetings with the deputy ministers. We discussed the priority situations for Highway No. 3 and Highway No. 4. There was not very much direction required for me as a Minister to the department because Highway No. 3 is still a high priority highway versus Highway No. 4.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Supplementary to Question 156-14(4): Reconfirming Highway No. 3 as a Priority**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to drive Highway No. 3 twice. I did not see any highway equipment when we had a light snowfall but I was able to see highway equipment south of Edzo. I would like to ask the Minister, maybe his department in the top level might know the priorities, but maybe lower down they do not. Can he assure me they will make sure they do that?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

#### **Further Return to Question 156-14(4): Reconfirming Highway No. 3 as a Priority**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I will do that. I will follow that up.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Supplementary to Question 156-14(4): Reconfirming Highway No. 3 as a Priority**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can share with me the correspondence between him and his staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

#### **Further Return to Question 156-14(4): Reconfirming Highway No. 3 as a Priority**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I will go to the full action of writing the directions to the department. I believe that we have a policy in government that we allow our managers to manage. I believe that it is presumed the department will be following up with the letters that are necessary to the staff and copying me with these letters. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. No further supplementary? Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seem to have a lot of opportunity to ask questions today. My question today is for Mr. Handley as the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I see in the House today many trappers, Mr. Speaker, and it is that time of the year. November <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> is right around the corner. That is when we traditionally go out on the land and start trapping. I would like to know from the Minister, what is the market for furs in Canada and internationally, as understood by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

#### **Return to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any recent indications on fur prices, but certainly last spring there were indications -- in fact, all of last winter -- that fur prices were going up considerably. I expect that trend has maintained itself but I have seen nothing yet this fall. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Supplementary to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have seen some encouraging developments in the fur market. What is the department doing to assist trappers who want to go out and pursue this very honourable way of life, Mr. Speaker? What has the department done this summer or in the last year or so? What are they willing to do this year, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the one major initiative that we have is, of course, the fur pricing program where we will guarantee trappers a minimum price for good quality fur that has been well-prepared. That program continues and we will be reviewing it.

Now we are reviewing our whole trapping program, our whole fur subsidization program. That is being done mainly to look at the value added in the Northwest Territories. I hope to see more northern fur being sold as northern fur.

The other one, of course, is we have had the Western Harvester Support Program. I believe about \$11 million was distributed amongst communities through that program to support trappers, so that money is out there. We have other harvester assistance programs. So there is considerable assistance to help trappers. In addition to those as mentioned, we also do a lot of trapper training, particularly the young people. Those will continue this year as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to see the department working with communities and young children to ensure that this honourable profession does not go by the wayside.

I am interested in the review the department is doing. Can the Minister give us a little more detail as to what the review is all about, who is involved in the review, when will this review be finished and when will it be made available to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley. There were a few questions there, all related. Two, at least.

**Further Return to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the review is to try to ensure that our trappers are getting the maximum price possible for their fur. The department, for the last few years, has been selling northern fur where trappers agreed to participate in a program through a firm in Montreal who sold it as genuine Mackenzie Valley fur. We are looking at that program to see whether we are getting the prices we need.

We are also subsidizing and working very closely with a number of subsidiaries of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, who are in the business of trying to make value-added products from northern fur. We hope that will also provide a market. There are a number of initiatives going on there. The main one is with D'Arcy Moses, but also in the Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk areas as well.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of when do we complete it, I can certainly give the Member a progress report of what we have done but I think this is an ongoing exercise that will continue. This past year has been a particularly busy one because of the need to review how we were selling fur through the Montreal firm. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it will be very nice to have that information available, or advertised anyway, so people who are interested in that review process can see who they can contact to maybe assist in the process.

My interest is in the secondary industry and the work the department is doing with D'Arcy Moses and the Aklavik fur industry. Are those pilot projects, Mr. Speaker? If so, will they be made available to other communities that want it in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 157-14(4): National and International Fur Markets**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, no, I do not see those as being pilot projects. They are projects that we are continuing to support, either through the Northwest Territories Development Corporation or directly through the department, and possibly by both.

As we do the business program review in RWED, we are looking at all of our services, our business support services. Included in there will be an assessment of how we best support the fur industry. I would be happy to review any of that with the Member at any time he wants. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. It is in regard to industrial standards, especially in the oil and gas industry that they do have high standards that they like to meet when it comes to training and for people that are employed in that industry, that they do have adequate training. What are you doing to ensure that whatever training and resources are spent in the training area are meeting the standards that are set in the oil and gas industry?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have standards in apprenticeship areas, in trades and in occupations. As a matter of fact, we have developed occupational standards here in the Northwest Territories that are similar to other areas and we have covered about six. We are looking at a total of about 35 to cover, Mr. Speaker. Certainly in the apprenticeship area, our apprentices -- and we have double the number of apprentices training versus the national average -- the territorial apprentices, many of them are red seal, which means that they are approved across the country, Mr. Speaker. So we are naturally interested in ensuring that our standards are high and meet national and other jurisdiction standards and meet the needs of industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a meeting held in Inuvik over the last number of days, there was a statement made by industry that the training that people are receiving in the Beaufort-Delta and Mackenzie Delta area is not meeting their standards. I would like to ask the Minister, has he looked at or met with the industry to clearly identify what their standards are and what they require for us to meet those standards?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of standards, I will be meeting with a lot of the human resource development people from the oil industry and various operators in Calgary within a couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker, and this is one of the subjects that we will be discussing. I am not sure how this occurred because we believe that the standards and the training that is done is done by certified individuals. Our own programs through Aurora College, for example, are standards we feel are developed to ensure that industry can accept those standards. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister touched on the area of certification, but I think a lot of people are disappointed when you receive your certificate and then you go to a particular job site and they say that is not valid in this industry, especially in the oil and gas industry. What are we doing to streamline our certification program with the rest of Canada so we are able to train people in the North but they also can participate in other activities in southern Canada, so they are not only restricted to the Northwest Territories by ensuring we meet southern standards?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, the instructors that we use are qualified and certified instructors in this area. We believe that courses offered by Aurora College are appropriate courses. I am not sure specifically -- perhaps we should get more details on the specific issue that industry is raising because we feel that there is certainly recognition of a need to ensure standards are met and a need to ensure that this is nationally recognized. If an individual does receive a certificate or training in some area, that can be applicable elsewhere. We are very interested in ensuring that. We do believe that is available in most of our areas. If there are specific areas, I would certainly welcome the opportunity to look at this in more depth. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister inform the House of what the outcome of his meetings are going to be with the oil and gas industry in Calgary on the whole area of certification so that he can report back to the House and see exactly where those areas are in regards to our certification versus what their expectations are?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 158-14(4): Oil and Gas Training Standards**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will go a step further. I would certainly welcome the Member to join me in my meetings in Calgary so that we can raise this issue. I think it is obviously an important issue. It was raised and I would like the Member to join me if he could, or other Members. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of RWED, the Honourable Joe Handley. Mr. Handley, I understand there is a new bison management plan in the works right now for bison between Rae and Fort Providence. I would just like to know if that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I am not aware of a new bison management plan for the bison in the Rae area. There certainly has been an allocation made between Providence and Rae, but in terms of a new plan, I am not aware of one. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, the quotas for the bison tags, Providence versus Rae, is not equal. Can he tell me if the department will be looking at equalizing the bison tags for all residents in the Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the allocation of bison was made, it was based on the number of bison that were within that community's traditional hunting area. So in the case of Providence, a quota was set. As the bison have moved north toward Rae, then again a smaller quota was set because of the lower numbers of bison in the Rae area. I would be happy to look at those or have the department look at those at any time if it does not appear to be fair. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he could work with the aboriginal groups and the hunters in the Dogrib riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Certainly, Mr. Speaker. In fact, that will be a requirement of the department, that they work with the hunters and their representatives. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister how soon can he get to work on that?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 159-14(4): New Bison Management Plan**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure my executive assistant is listening to you right now and will be on the phone to RWED within minutes. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

**Bill 11: Architects' Act**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development has reviewed Bill 11, the Architects Act, and wishes to report that Bill 11 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 56-14(4): Social Agenda Conference Report**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Social Agenda Conference Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**Tabled Document 57-14(4): Business Development Fund Annual Report and Recipients Report April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Business Development Fund Annual Report and Recipients Report April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Tabled Document 58-14(4): Package of Letters in Support of Premier Kakfwi**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a package of letters, emails and a list of phone calls from members of the public, chiefs, mayors, business leaders,

religious leaders and other people from the private sector, in support of myself as Premier. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### ITEM 16: MOTIONS

##### **Motion 10-14(4): To Move Tabled Document 51-14(4) into Committee of the Whole (Carried)**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Tabled Document 51-14(4), entitled Investing in Roads for People in the Economy, A Highway Strategy for the Northwest Territories be moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Tabled Document 51-14(4) is...The motion is carried. Item 16, motions. Motion 11. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

##### **Motion 11-14(4): Confidence in Premier Kakfwi (Carried)**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS it has been the practice of this Legislative Assembly to vote on confidence motions in the House;

AND WHEREAS Members have expressed the desire to have a vote of confidence in the Premier;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Assembly affirms its confidence in the Premier, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I brought this motion forward because I believe the Assembly should express its support to Premier Kakfwi and the government that he represents. Our citizens have a right to expect that we will move past this issue and, as elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, will focus on the substantive issues that are before this House and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, this government has established a five-point agenda to improve the economic and social future of the people of the Northwest Territories. Our agenda is based on the Legislative Assembly's Towards a Better Tomorrow, which we all participated in developing. Our collective vision reflects a common belief that residents of the Northwest Territories must benefit from economic development and that we will pursue this development in the interests of all the people we represent.

Mr. Speaker, under Premier Kakfwi's leadership, we have worked hard to establish partnerships with aboriginal

governments, with industry, with the federal and provincial governments, and with all of our citizens in the Northwest Territories. We have worked as a team to secure the trust of aboriginal leaders, to build confidence in the business and investment community, and to gain federal support for our agenda.

Mr. Speaker, we have been successful in our work. There is excitement in activity throughout the Northwest Territories and in fact throughout Canada. The potential that we hold and the amount of economic activity going on here -- the stage has been set for us to take advantage of this potential. We all have spoken about the work that has been done in mining, in oil and gas. In fact, we just had the signing of a memorandum of understanding for a pipeline a couple of weeks ago. We have done a lot of work in the area of tourism and there is much to be done in that and other areas. We have done a lot to support traditional economies. We are moving ahead on issues like resource revenue sharing.

Mr. Speaker, those are all important things that this government is part-way through in its four-year mandate. Mr. Speaker, I might say that yesterday I was in Ottawa attending a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Finance. I have noticed a bit of a difference across Canada, a difference in respect and recognition of the Northwest Territories as more than just a little piece of the country off in some corner somewhere. We have a significant role to play in Canada. It is recognized by people around that table. I am proud to go there and be recognized, to have provinces like Ontario listen very carefully to what we are saying and what it is we are doing and how we are responding to issues. I have noticed that in many other fronts. I think we have made a lot of progress in just bringing the Northwest Territories to a point where we do mean something to Canada politically, economically, and culturally and in many other ways.

However, we cannot take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity in development unless we press forward. This requires a stable investment climate. People have to feel that we are more than, as somebody mentioned last week, a little banana republic somewhere. We have to be taken seriously as a government that is moving ahead with great opportunities. This requires stability in government and credibility of all our partners.

Over the last four days, we have heard from many leaders; aboriginal leaders, business leaders, leaders from our religious and community organizations, from ordinary citizens, and they are telling us that they have confidence in Stephen Kakfwi as Premier and confidence in this government.

Mr. Speaker, Premier Kakfwi has shown leadership, the leadership necessary to develop and maintain stability and credibility in the government and for the Northwest Territories. We are positioned to take advantage of opportunities like we have never been before, but we need to work together to ensure our constituents benefit from these opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, a vote of confidence is a very serious matter. If it is not supported, it could take our government down. To have a vote of confidence by secret ballot in a Territorial Leadership Committee, as contemplated by some, is unprecedented. That has never happened before. Votes of confidence have to take place in the House through a formal motion and be moved in a way where Members are obliged to publicly stand up and be

counted. They have to vote yes or no or if they choose to abstain.

I urge all the Members to support this motion of confidence, stand up, be counted and I think we can get the vote done, get it behind us, get on with the reasons the people have elected us to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. I did not want to do this but I must. I just have to remind members in the gallery to avoid large demonstrations or applause. It is part of the rules of the House that members in the gallery are not allowed to participate in the debate that is taking place. I would just ask if you could bear with us and refrain from spontaneous clapping.

To the motion. The seconder of the motion, the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have seconded this motion for a number of reasons since the events of last week, Thursday and Friday. I seconded the motion on Friday. Thinking about the vote of confidence for the Premier, I believe that we have to try to be as open and transparent as we can to the people we say we are going to represent and try to do the best for in the communities.

I just want to say that as a Cabinet Member, I believe we are independent-minded people who serve on Cabinet as Ministers. We work with the Premier to do work for the Government of the Northwest Territories and for the people of the Northwest Territories.

As Ministers in Cabinet, we work with Premier Kakfwi. I must say that in the last two years, we have invested a lot of effort and time working and trying to build some stability and credibility in the North. I think we have some movement in a lot of areas. I just want to talk about the partnerships we have been working on very hard with aboriginal governments, as well as the federal government and industry.

The aboriginal governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories have been working as partners in trying a new system of government that is beginning to unfold here in the Northwest Territories. We have worked very hard to strengthen our relationship with aboriginal governments so that we can pursue goals that are similar, shared goals.

The basis of this relationship is trust. With the federal and aboriginal governments, we have established the Intergovernmental Forum to build strong and lasting intergovernmental relationships. One of the most important goals for strengthening our government is to achieve devolution and resource revenue sharing agreements that will provide our governments with the authority and the funds necessary to effectively pursue all of our different mandates that are out there.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have improved our relationships with aboriginal leaders. I think we have earned trust. We have made significant progress in agreeing on a shared agenda.

Last May, elected leaders of the Intergovernmental Forum signed a memorandum of understanding on principles that would guide the relationship of the parties in the Intergovernmental Forum.

On the critical issue of devolution and resource revenue sharing, leaders endorsed a memorandum of intent, setting out principles, objectives and a process for future devolution talks. This agreement includes a commitment that all parties must seek instructions and appoint negotiators by March 31, 2002. I think this is a very important date to keep in mind, and the magnitude of the progress we have made so far involving a lot of the aboriginal governments. I think there was some success in that. It is not concluded, but we still have a lot of work to do here in this area.

Premier Kakfwi, Minister Handley and I participated with aboriginal leaders and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in that historic meeting.

Earlier this month, the Mackenzie Valley Producer Groups and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group signed a memorandum of understanding that would provide for aboriginal equity, ownership in the proposed future Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Progress has also been made on the settlement of aboriginal rights, self-government arrangements with the Beaufort-Delta, agreements-in-principle, which I announced earlier today, being the latest concrete achievement in this area.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Assembly, I think we should all look at these accomplishments and support our common vision, Towards a Better Tomorrow. It takes time and a lot of effort to build this kind of trust and confidence. I believe we are at a critical point in the development of this relationship. We need to keep it going. We do not want to see this type of progress derailed unnecessarily.

Mr. Speaker, aboriginal leaders have signalled they have confidence in Premier Kakfwi. I believe in the Cabinet, especially in Premier Kakfwi's leadership. There is trust in him to continue to achieve the interests of the Northwest Territories government.

I must qualify that by saying in talking to a number of aboriginal leaders, there is support and trust. However, it is not a blind support. There are conditions, of course. These conditions are doable and we could work with these conditions. I think we have been doing that. We still have a lot of work to do in this whole area. I would like to say that with the leadership of Premier Kakfwi and working with the Cabinet Members here, we could work and we will continue to work with aboriginal leaders in trying to achieve what they would like to do for their governments and their people. We could do that together with this government.

I seek the support of the Members of this Assembly to also confirm their confidence so that we can continue to try to work for our people to build a good future for the people here for the Northwest Territories with our partners. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. To the motion. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger. Each Member has 20 minutes.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are coming to the final days, hopefully, of what has been a very long eight-month process. A process that I can tell you fervently from the bottom of my heart that I hope is never to be

repeated as long as I am in political office. I am sure anybody who has been involved with this could say the same.

There has been significant turmoil over the past few days. A lot of things have happened. Emotions ran high. The situation, at times, looked like it was going to end up where a lot of people did not want it to.

I personally spent a lot of time considering how to deal with the motions before us on the floor of this House and whether to make a decision to run for the vacant Cabinet seat.

As a member of the conflict committee, Mr. Speaker, I stand behind the report and its contents. The intent of the motion in regard to the Premier's office was to deal with the confidence issue and the ability of the Premier's office to continue to be effective in light of what had happened.

Mr. Speaker, the staff in that office are critical and are often the link, the key link for both MLAs and the public to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I have said in this House yesterday and I have said in other venues that the issue for me was never a broad case of confidence in the Premier and Cabinet and the work of government.

Mr. Speaker, the number I have used is that I believe over 90 percent of the things that government does, I support. We have differences on some issues, but we are supposed to. That is where accountability comes in. That is where the role of MLAs comes in.

Mr. Speaker, I do acknowledge that the Premier has done good work, particularly in the areas like the national front over the past two years, as we have raised the profile of the Northwest Territories.

Before making my decision this weekend to run for the vacant Cabinet seat, I wanted to get a clear sense from the Premier that he would take definite steps to address the motion to deal with his office.

Mr. Speaker, I have received that assurance. While I, like other Members, have questions about whether the actions announced and the new news will be sufficient to address the intent of the motion, I take the Premier at his word that he will place the best interests of the Northwest Territories first and show the leadership necessary to move past these difficulties we are currently engaged in and get on with the important work at hand.

Mr. Speaker, there has been confusion all around in the past few days. I said yesterday and I say again today that it is important to step back from that, take a look at the overall direction we are moving and look at how to restore public confidence while maintaining the momentum we have worked towards as a Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I have confidence in the Premier and his Cabinet. Therefore, I have no hesitation in saying that I am prepared to put my name forward for consideration for the vacant seat and that I will be supporting this motion. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to put my views on this subject on the floor again. I tried to do so earlier, however, I was not able to skate around some of the terminology.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched this whole process for many months. I believe the whole process took eight months. I am getting very tired of what I am considering to take up a lot of our time. Maybe we had to jump through the hoops that we had to so far. However, it is becoming more and more obvious that there is no end in sight and every time we do see the light at the end of the tunnel, somebody slams that door shut on us.

I am of the belief that we do have to have a confidence vote in the Premier. I guess how we do that is more the question. I believe we have had to do this since I have seen the report of the special committee. I am on record stating that the report has probably shaken the confidence in the Premier. I do not have a problem, from my standpoint, standing up here and saying that I have confidence in and support the Premier. How we do that is a different matter.

My support for the Premier is not a question in my mind. I believe, like many of the people in the North, that he has worked hard and he has done well for us. My problem is with the process. I do not believe that we, as Members of this House, should be expected to stand up and publicly declare our position. I would like to state to you and the rest of the Members of this House and to the people of the North, why.

First of all, a confidence vote is one of the few tools we have in our tool kit as MLAs to keep the Premier and the Ministers accountable and that cannot be jeopardized. I am concerned that by going through this process and setting a precedent here by doing it publicly that we jeopardize that whole confidence vote issue. A public vote for me does not mean that we will be putting this issue to rest. If it is a closed vote, there will always be questions, questions raised from one point or the other.

A public vote to me is not a free vote. In my opinion, any Minister that does not support the Premier may as well hand in his resignation. That is another reason why I object to having a public vote. As a potential candidate -- and I have already stated that I am not announcing that I am running for Cabinet -- but as a potential candidate, I object to having to swear my support and loyalty to the Premier. I do not believe that it should be a criteria of anyone putting their name forward as a candidate to run for Cabinet.

No other Ministers on the other side of the House had to stand up and declare their loyalty to the Premier when they ran. Why should I? Why should any people who are considering running for a Minister's position do so now?

In my opinion, I am very concerned about how things have unfolded in the last few days. We have seen a lot of pressure being put on the Regular MLAs, a lot of pressure from letters in writing that had a lot of, I would say, threatening overtones. Some Members, I understand, may have been given ultimatums themselves. I will not accept that. I have to stand up for my colleagues and anyone that has been put in a position where they are pressured, I cannot allow this to go on. I do not believe that a public vote or a secret vote at this point is going to result in anything. The end result will be the same, Mr. Speaker.

In my oath to my constituents as a legislator, it requires me to provide my best efforts at effective representation, accountability, honesty, fairness and courtesy. Mr. Speaker, I feel the only way we can do that is through a secret ballot vote. When this motion comes up for a vote, I will be abstaining, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, I had an opportunity to go home and spend an important evening with my own family and a chance to sit back and reflect back on what has occurred in the last number of days.

Now, other people out there -- and the message that is being sent may have placed a number of Members in the very negative viewpoint of a lot of people because they are hearing one side of the story. Mr. Speaker, when I had the opportunity to go home, I was able to tell my own family and friends what I saw was the whole picture. I never like to make a decision based on only one viewpoint. I like to hear it from both sides.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that, in fact, both sides have not been publicly aired. There has been one side of the equation that has been out there and to paint the picture, a very negative picture, of how all Members of this Assembly were conducting themselves.

Now, it is quite open that myself and the Premier have not seen eye to eye on a number of issues. That may be so, but the people of Inuvik Boot Lake elected me to this position to do my job to the best of my ability, to represent them in this forum. I believe I have done that. Nobody from my constituency has told me, "Floyd, it is time to look at another occupation." They have sent me back here a second time. In fact, my challenging of Cabinet and some of the initiatives they have done has only brought more support.

Mr. Speaker, when I recall working for the people of the Territories in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, I do not recall a situation of this nature being so negative that, in fact, there was an approach used that would drown out the elected voices in this circle, in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have a right as individual Members to speak on behalf of our constituents and why they put us here. I have made it very clear from day one on accountability and integrity, those were issues that I would look at and highlight, along with the ongoing work of government when we look at budgets and at strategies.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is always important to sit back and reflect on one's work and where we were heading as an Assembly. I have had to do that. I have made comments that we have to get out of the paper and go back to the people. It is important that we do that on a regular basis so we do not get so caught up in this process that we think that we are above what happens out there in the public.

Mr. Speaker, as I was referring to earlier in my Member's statement about how we set the example for future generations, we make the laws here, Mr. Speaker, the laws

that the people of the Territories will have to abide in. If they did not, they would face a penalty of one form or another, whether it is something as simple as speeding or something under the Criminal Code of Canada. We are all held accountable at some point.

Mr. Speaker, nobody is above the law. In our actions in this forum, we are going to be measured and how I measure my colleagues here is the same way I expect to be measured. I do not think that I can hold a measure of rule against the Premier or another Cabinet Minister or a Regular Member colleague and not expect that measure to be put against myself.

Mr. Speaker, I think at this point, I have to begin to try to set the record straight for some people in the Territories because it has been publicly stated by our Premier, and he spoke about the pettiness in the backrooms, he spoke about decisions made in the backrooms that were threatening him with non-confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed he chose the tactic he chose. Sometimes we have to take a more humble approach to the way we do business. That is difficult when people are poking at you to try to get a reaction or when you feel your political life may be on the line. I believe a true leader would be able to take those opportunities and recognize them and step back and take a more measured approach to the way we do business. I believe right from day one, as one of my colleagues said this has taken about eight months, this process could have been taken care of within the first few days back then and it was not. There was an opportunity missed.

I believe the night when we discussed the committee report and its recommendations, the very last motion, there was an opportunity missed to step back and just take a little lighter approach and say, "I will review what is going on here." That might have taken care of it; but no, actions were taken that went outside of that, which have placed us all in a negative light within the public.

I am not trying to make a practice of being negative on government, but it seems that I have been painted that way in my constituents and some of them would approve that I challenge government on its ability to carry out the business of government.

There are times when we have to slow down and take a look at the landscape to make sure we are still on the right trail. I must say we left the trail of good government a ways back.

Now, the announcement made today, Mr. Speaker, about the elimination of the chief of staff position, goes back a ways to help me come back in looking at what work is being done and that this government is coming back in line with good government. When they had that position filled and wrote a contract, they wrote a contract that was outside its own laws. Mr. Speaker, I started to have problems back then. So steps have been taken to improve that and I think we have to recognize that as well.

Mr. Speaker, when the word is out there that all will collapse if there is change, if that is the stance that government had taken at every re-election, you would never see anybody new because we were afraid we were going to lose ground with the work that was done. We should never be so big that we think with a step out of one of us, ourselves as a Member, if we are not re-elected, that this government would fail to function. The

issues that were raised of importance within the Territories and its people continue to be of importance whether we are here or not. It is important how we address those issues, I agree. Yes, key individuals can help those processes work, but we should never think we are so big that they will not continue to move on without us. Time stops for no one, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I do not do this to try to make any points because I know, in fact, that if one is trying to do that, we lose the main focus of why we are here, of good government, of accountability to the people, of why we decided to put our name on the ballot the very first time. We have to look at that, Mr. Speaker, as we go about the business of the people of the Territories.

I can grab some material and I can go over it and talk about how well Floyd Roland has done for the constituency of Inuvik Boot Lake, but I well know, Mr. Speaker, that if it was not for the hard-working individuals within my constituency, many of those good things would not have been done. It took a team and that is what it takes in this forum, a team. How is this team functioning these days?

Well, we have what I would say, if we were playing a game of hockey, some hot dogs who want to be out in the limelight and take the glory. Some might even paint me in that area, that I do this to get more media. I do not need that, Mr. Speaker. I am doing quite well with my own family in what I do back home. However, I have told people and I know to myself that if I did not say anything on the issues that have occurred over the last number of days here, I would be failing in my responsibility as a Member of this Legislative Assembly and a representative of the people in Inuvik Boot Lake of bringing to task, difficult as it may be, the order of government and good government.

Mr. Speaker, the picture has been painted, as I said earlier, with a very negative slant to some Members of this Assembly. From outside the walls of this Assembly to inside the walls of this Assembly and yes, Mr. Speaker, to the backrooms. We are politicians and we are all grown. We know that it is a fact of life, backroom meetings occur as they have this past weekend, gauging support for this initiative or that initiative. Let's not kid ourselves.

There is no one here that can stand up and say they have not partaken, in one form or another, of a meeting to discuss what process or how they will put a plan together to question in this House or what initiative will come forward from Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, when that backroom discussion starts to become front and centre of discussion of the residents of the Northwest Territories, we have a duty to ensure that both sides of the picture are being told.

Mr. Kakfwi, in his statements to the people of the Northwest Territories, talked about having a club held over his head. Is that not the fact of what is happening here when you have a couple of Members who are going to vie for a vacant position on Cabinet and they are told support the Premier or you will not have a number of votes? That is the message that is implied, Mr. Speaker. If you are going to put your name in the arena for a position, feeling that you cannot state what is in your heart because you know you might not get enough support from the other side to secure you that seat is a very difficult position to be put in.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone in this Assembly can condone the actions that have occurred and the reactions to certain actions. I think we all have to apologize to the residents of the Territories of what has occurred here. I can apologize to my constituents, Mr. Speaker. The fact that government right now is tied up in this quagmire of politics and as the Premier stated it may be petty to him, it may be petty and maybe that is where we are having the problem, Mr. Speaker, because the issues that came before us are more than petty to someone as myself. We have a job and if you are on Cabinet, you have a job to represent all the people, not just the ones you feel are going to represent your side of the story. I talked about representing those who do not have a voice here in the sense of the associations, unions and everything else out there. Certain numbers can be pressed and this whole machinery kicks into gear. We see the effects of that.

Mr. Speaker, this motion put before us, as I see it, is another tactic that is used in a sense to go around an issue that we discussed as 19 Members; that we would go to a Territorial Leadership Committee to fill a position and that a question would be put forward on the confidence in the Premier. Now just because Members have decided to go that route did not necessarily mean that all those Members would also vote against the confidence, but that is the way the message was taken and that is the way it was run out in the public, in the media.

I think we have an opportunity and we need to settle this issue once and for all. I would prefer, Mr. Speaker, that those who would have concerns about speaking publicly at this time because it could impact the future direction they take in this Assembly, would have the opportunity to voice, not from the pressure that is being put on them but from their hearts, as to what they believe is happening here today.

As for myself, Mr. Speaker, I can speak with a clean conscience about what I do here and what I speak about. When I go home to my family, I can know that I have not done anything that is wrong. I may have challenged but that is allowed in the rules that I know of. I may have questioned. That is allowed. That is part of our job.

Mr. Speaker, when I speak to the people, my constituents, when they ask me questions, I try to give them the full story. I think that is only fair. If the Premier wants my confidence, then I think some of the actions that have occurred as a result of the committee report and its dealings need to be clarified to tell both sides of the story, and even to apologize to the people of the Northwest Territories for going beyond and embellishing what I think occurred. Now, that might be my interpretation. The opportunity is there.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I know that as a Legislative Assembly, we have to get on with business. What the vote of this House, the majority vote in this case, would start again the motion of getting on with business. I will accept that but I will always, for the benefit of my constituents, raise issues of accountability and integrity, of good government. After all, if I cannot sit down and look at my own children, as they are going to grow up here in the Northwest Territories and I expect them to abide by the laws that we put in front of them and the rules that we put in place. If I expect them to do that, then I have to lead by example.

I must say, overall, we are all painted with a bad picture. Mr. Speaker, with that, I will not be supporting this motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I too, before I get into the motion, would like to comment on the motion itself. It is pretty amazing that a motion of confidence comes from the other side of the House. If anything, it should have come from this side of the House so that you can show if there was confidence. To have the motion come from the opposite side of the House and allow us due process, in which we should have had the ability to determine that from this side of the House. We are the ones who evaluate the conduct of Cabinet, the Premier. It should have come from this side of the House, but in this case, it has not.

I have some questions about that in regard to the whole process. Everyone at that side of the House was elected through a process. The process was secret ballot, not knowing who was for or against you. So those people who ran in that particular case and lost had no idea who might have said they supported you on one hand and voted against you on the other.

Yet here you are today, every one of you on that side of the House, through your motion, has pulled a 180 degree turn on exactly where you sit on that side of the House.

I think that for this to come from that side of the House is not fair for the Members on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to poll my riding, talk to my leaders and talk to former leaders in my region. I also gave the benefit of the doubt to the Premier. On Friday, I met with the Premier. I put the cards on the table with regard to the way I see it and some of the moves that he has to take to build the trust for myself, to make me realize that there is something going on in this government and it will be cleared up.

Mr. Speaker, it is awfully hard to sit through the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly and now to come to the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly and to end up jumping back on this roller-coaster ride called the conflict process because of what has occurred here in the last number of months.

For me, the whole process that this has pointed to is good government and ensuring that we restore the integrity of the office of the Premier and this government. As we can see, we are here again today because we have not been able to do that.

So it was because of that I met with the Premier on Friday evening. I made it clear to the Premier of the Northwest Territories that the problem that I had was where top officials of the Government of the Northwest Territories had to be dealt with. It involved the wrongdoing that has taken place regarding the unauthorized taping and also the participation in the telephone conversations, which should have been handled in a better way.

Mr. Speaker, we are all here to do the best for the people of the Northwest Territories and to ensure that we build that trust of the people of the Northwest Territories, to have good

government, to keep this government accountable and to make sure that the people out there realize that the actions we take in here and we take within this building as government is seen out there as being on the same level of the law that they have to operate under.

No one in this government or in these offices should be above the law.

I for one, Mr. Speaker, have taken the time to give the Premier an opportunity to get the information that I requested, to look at the policies and procedures within this government, to put in formal action that there will be a protocol agreement, that they will seriously look at the ministerial handbook to ensure it is in writing, it is in black and white and that actions are being done so that this never happens again, so we are not here to go through this process again.

Mr. Speaker, I have received the information that I requested. The Premier has taken action. I believe other actions will be coming in the near future. I for one feel that we have to ensure that we continue to make these improvements to how we govern, ensuring the people who work for this government understand that there are rules and we have to follow them. We cannot find ourselves back here in another number of months, or the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly, going through the same thing we have gone through in the last two Assemblies.

I think it is time that we ensure that we have a system in place. We have to look at the whole conflict process that we have in place. It is definitely an ineffective cost to this government and to the way we do it, where we are totally destroying lives, making innuendoes and hurting people who do not have an opportunity to really find a way to have the ability to have due process.

I for one feel that as a government, we have to somehow implement -- I do not know if we want to call it a watchdog or have an agency within this government that ensures that the Minister, the departments, the government agencies are following the protocols and the rules we establish in this House and it is enforced and they do have some teeth. If we find out that someone has breached a specific section of the protocols or the policies within this government, that we are able to react to it sooner than having to wait eight months and we end up in the situation where we are back in this House having the same debate and having the same disputes.

I will make it clear here today that I do support the Premier. I find the Premier in the situation of actions of others, in which he was also kept in the light -- or the dark, I should say, in this case. We have to find a mechanism that we do get back down to business. We do have to get on with the business at hand. That is the message I heard loud and clear from my constituents, the leaders in my riding and the Inuvialuit people. That we do have so much going for us and we cannot lose track at this important time. I think for myself and for the aboriginal initiatives that are out there, because of what has happened with self-government, the Intergovernmental Forum, we are talking about finally being recognized on the national front on where we are going with revenue sharing.

I think as a government, we have to somehow find ways of avoiding this type of a process that is time-consuming, is played out in the media, and at the end of it all, everyone in this room, everyone in the gallery and the whole Northwest

Territories is affected, either directly or indirectly because of what has happened in this government.

For myself, having gone through the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we had some good leaders. We had some tough decisions. We made some good decisions, but the public out there does not look at the good decisions. They look at the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly as a public inquiry and that is not what good government is about. Here we are again because of a similar situation.

I for one feel we have to change the way we do things and find a system that is effective, that reacts to the actions sooner rather than having to go through this process for eight months. That you have the regime in place that catches these things before it comes to this point. That action is taken immediately whenever any intervention or violation is being done.

Mr. Speaker, getting back to the point at hand in regard to the process of the motion, I for one again feel that we do have to have a process in regard to this motion, like I mentioned earlier. The motion should have come from this side of the House to state exactly where we stand. We agreed to a process through Caucus to allow for some review to take place where we allow the Premier to make a public statement for half an hour and tell us exactly what he has done in the action taken to ensure the public is made aware and the public trust is reinstated by certain actions.

The Premier has taken those actions in my eyes. He has made sure there is now a strict administrative policy and procedure in place, which I have here in my hand, and that the actions on where we go from here are again in the hands of all Members in this House. We are the ones who can assure the public of that trust. We have been given that trust to preserve and protect and ensure we enhance it through what we do here.

What we do as a government reflects on who we are as a people. I think it is important to have good government. We must ensure that we have input from the people. I feel we do have to take the time to really look over what has happened here, to really look at exactly how these decisions made within the last week have affected everyone. Statements in this House have affected individuals on both sides of the House.

We can say we are one big happy family and leave here and say, "Oh well, it is over," but it is never over. The only time it will ever be over is when we do not have these types of situations. We have to ensure there are mechanisms that allow us to say these situations will never happen. But they happen. All we can do as individuals and Members of this Legislature is ensure we have good policies, good procedures and good enforcement of those policies and procedures to ensure they do not happen. When they do happen, we react to it quickly and also sincerely to allow due process.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the Premier on this. I think it is time for us as a government to get back to business. We have too many big-ticket items out there. I believe that we have to do the right thing here; implement these policies and procedures and let us get on with it. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to point out my feelings concerning the leadership of Mr. Stephen Kakfwi. Mr. Speaker, letters were sent to us as MLAs. Some letters were supporting the Premier. One letter said he should resign. Four other letters said they were aware of the activities. Out of all those letters, 24 letters were from leaders, from prominent citizens in the Northwest Territories. Not one of them indicated the activities in the Premier's office. Were they not aware of it or do they condone that kind of activity?

I was astonished to hear some of the things they were saying in support, ignoring all the activities that happened. They just threw it out the back door and want to continue going on.

As the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi is accountable for what happens under his direction in the same way that senior management would be held accountable for what happens in their department -- in other words, what happens in the Premier's office is ultimately the Premier's responsibility.

The fate of the whole Northwest Territories rested on one position, which the Premier has now chosen to deal with. The way the events have unfolded, it is the Premier's duty to make sure he knows what is going on in his own office. We expect a standard of our senior management and our civil servants. We must expect the same standards of our Premier.

It was the Premier himself who promised us open and transparent government. I greatly respect what Mr. Kakfwi has done for the North. He has brought forward the vision of our people. I believe Premier Kakfwi truly does care about the people. I also respect the work he has done for the past 20 years or more as a leader of his people.

I want Premier Kakfwi to know that I can support him and trust in his leadership now that he has cleaned up his office. He has chosen to do just that and I trust that Premier Kakfwi will bring back integrity to the office of the Premier. I believe he can do that now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I support Mr. Kakfwi.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we started the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, we all got together collectively and we developed a document called [Towards a Better Tomorrow](#). We developed and identified visions and common goals. We developed many strategies, Mr. Speaker. The government itself outlined plans to improve the social and economic future of the people of the Northwest Territories and this was based on the Assembly's vision of [Towards a Better Tomorrow](#).

Over the past two years, we have developed excellent relationships and partnerships with the federal and aboriginal governments here in the Northwest Territories and with industry and the business community. In my own department, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has been a strong advocate, contributor and supporter of the many strategies that our department has undertaken.

A lot of work has been done by all of us. I feel we are on track as to where we should be according to [Towards a Better Tomorrow](#). There is excitement here in the Northwest Territories about the future that is in front of all of us.

Northerners are participating in the economy and they are enthused about the outlook here.

We need to collectively tell constituents, the federal government, business and industry, who no doubt are watching, that we have a stable and progressive government.

Premier Kakfwi, I for one support you, in the words of Mr. Handley as he said last week, 100 percent. We need to stay the course and continue to build the dream of a "have" territory as envisioned in *Towards A Better Tomorrow*. I believe Mr. Kakfwi brings that so very important quality of stability to this government. He does care about the people and about the future.

Under his leadership, the Intergovernmental Forum brought together federal, territorial and aboriginal governments to assess a number of issues, including resource royalty revenue sharing. He has been here to promote the oil and gas activity and aboriginal involvement in this development. He has placed the social agenda on the front burner.

The people that each of us represent are also represented by others: the chiefs, the councillors, the business leaders. Over the past few days, many of these people have spoken out in strong support of the Premier by various means, including to myself. We have laid the foundation, a solid foundation, for the NWT. Now is the time to build on that foundation together, all of us together. I would hope that the Members, all Members on the other side, would support the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in this time will be my first time speaking about this issue publicly. It has been a very, very difficult week for all Members. It has been my most difficult to date as a Member of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Kakfwi and I had our differences right off the bat. There is no denying that. However, soon after he was elected Premier, I went to his office and I told him that I would work with him and this government and I have done that. Mr. Kakfwi and I share a lot of the same philosophies in life and towards government and program service delivery and political development in the Northwest Territories.

This is a process that started eight months ago, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague, Mr. Floyd Roland for Inuvik Boot Lake, had indicated, there is only one side of the story that seemed to have gone out. After the end of a very busy week, I had an opportunity to relax and view this and it came to me -- I do not have to make a decision here. The decision has been made for me. A friend of mine, a political leader in the Northwest Territories, called me up on Friday and I asked him, "What does it look like from the outside?" He said, "Everything was going fine and then all of a sudden things went chaotic."

If I can, I would like to explain the process the way I have seen it. The committee went through a process, we all know about that. They came in with a report. Jane Groenewegen reacted. She resigned. She did the honourable thing and restored a lot

of credibility to this government by doing so and I congratulate her for doing that.

The next recommendation was dealing with Lee Selleck and the CBC, I believe. That went through, no problem. The other recommendation was dealing with Carol Roberts. That recommendation was followed through, no problem. The fourth recommendation we all agreed on, that the Premier should do something about his staff to restore dignity and integrity in his office. That recommendation parlayed into the discussions that we had in Caucus. There was a vote taken and we all agreed that the issue of confidence in the Premier should be put on the ballot during the Territorial Leadership Committee when we select a replacement for Mrs. Groenewegen. I for one am a possible candidate.

That was when the chaos started, Mr. Speaker. The Premier reacted very negatively to it. That afternoon he came in here and made an emergency statement without consulting any Member of this House, including his Cabinet Ministers, I believe. He then went out and made a press release giving himself a deadline of today. Then without coming to any Member to see if they supported him or not -- and for the record, Mr. Speaker, I was going to vote in confidence of Mr. Kakfwi as Premier, but I am not sure if I will do that now on that Territorial Leadership Committee ballot.

He went out and contacted our leaders, our constituents, our chambers of commerce, our chamber of mines, our business leaders, industry, small business throughout the whole North. The phone calls were coming in fast and furious. Press releases were being made by political organizations throughout the Territories. The next day I came here, as I read in the paper today and in Friday's paper, he had asked his Cabinet Ministers to put forward a motion in the House that we as Members of this House publicly affirm him and confirm him and show our confidence in him as Premier.

What he did is take himself out of the arena we know as consensus government in this Legislature, which we all were elected to by the people of the Northwest Territories. He has taken himself out and went out and rallied the support of the people who personally support him. Now the people are all in the gallery here. A form of pressure on us as Members and now we are asked to vote in public if we support and have confidence in the Premier.

As one of the candidates that could possibly go after a Cabinet position, I am asked publicly to tell the people of the Northwest Territories that I have confidence in the Premier when he has clearly demonstrated to me and to Members of this House that he does not have any trust in his Members, that he does not believe that we have confidence in him. He took this issue outside of this arena. In my humble opinion, that is a giant leap towards party politics. There are people in this House and people outside this House that want the Premier to be elected at large and he or she be able to select his or her own Cabinet from within this House.

If that is the direction that we as a society of the Northwest Territories want to go, then let us do it in an organized fashion. Let us not do it under the gun. Let us not do it in a reactionary mode. We are a consensus government for a reason. We do not have the population base, I believe, for party politics in the Northwest Territories. When we have elections every four years, there is significant participation by the people of the

Northwest Territories and there is significant interest by people in our communities. In fact, there is so much interest there are families supporting two different candidates in an argumentative mode for weeks before and months after the election.

Can we afford as a society in the Northwest Territories to have party politics where party lines and party philosophies will have to be followed and adhered to, or preached in our communities on a daily basis? I do not think we could do that.

The reason why I believe the Northwest Territories is so progressive in a lot of ways, especially in aboriginal rights, aboriginal programs and services, as compared with the rest of the country, is because we are a consensus government that believes we have aboriginal rights because of the population base, because we have direct contact with our constituents and because we have an accountability system under consensus government that allows us to directly deal with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Minister of Transportation, it does not matter. Under party politics, we will not be able to do that.

To me, my vote is not in the confidence of the Premier anymore. It is the government system. I believe the government system of the Northwest Territories was put in jeopardy when the Premier, without consulting the Members of the Legislative Assembly or even Members of Cabinet, went outside and took it to the people of the Northwest Territories.

I cannot consciously vote in this matter where I am asked to vote publicly, even if it is not -- even if it is just for the Premier, if I have confidence in him or not. If I do it publicly then I believe myself, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly and the constituents I represent, would lose.

In the Northwest Territories, people depend, communities depend on capital projects. If we so blatantly disrespect or blatantly say we do not support the Premier and he gets back in then we, as Members of the Legislative Assembly who represent our constituents, their needs and wants, would be in danger of foul play.

That is what I was referring to in my Member's statement when I told my constituents that I will make a decision that is best for the governance of the Northwest Territories.

Consensus government has taken a blow, Mr. Speaker. I think by abstaining from this vote and not acknowledging it and following through with the process that we started off on, that we all agreed to in the House that we will follow, will restore that confidence in the governance system of the Northwest Territories.

I would dearly love the opportunity to make that vote on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker. Towards that end, I will be abstaining from this vote. If I vote either way, I am acknowledging that I want to affect the governance system of the Northwest Territories and I do not have a mandate. When I was elected to this House, I was not given a mandate to talk about party politics or even go as far as having the Premier be elected at large and having him select his own Cabinet. I will not do that, Mr. Speaker. My constituents have not asked me to do that. I refuse to do that.

I encourage my colleagues to abstain from this vote because of just that. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak to this motion. It truly has been a trying last few months. It has been the most difficult few months for me in this office. I wanted to talk about what has transpired here in the last few days because I am not entirely sure that the public has a good indication of what has been going on in this building.

We do have a process in place to deal with this affirmation, or not, of our confidence in the Premier. It was the will of Caucus that we ask this question on the ballot at the Territorial Leadership Committee. I want to be clear that the genesis for asking this question was not an attempted coup, as has been suggested by some Members in this House. It was an attempt, at least from my perspective, to get the Premier to deal with the conduct of his senior-most staff.

However, a lot has happened since then, Mr. Speaker. Every Member in this House has been heavily lobbied. I think the attendance in the gallery here today can attest to that. I also think people are very interested in something that has been ratcheted up to such a high level of profile.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that Members of this House have been characterized as basically lurking in the shadows and engaging in backroom dealings. I do resent how this situation has been portrayed and how it has been played out in front of us in the media. For me, this entire thing has been about upholding principles. Principles that I think are very important and I think that has been lost.

We have to remember that the findings of the committee in the conflict matter uncovered unacceptable conduct by anyone's measure. That is a fact, Mr. Speaker. Action was required and, Mr. Speaker, it seems that as events are unfolding here, even as late as an hour or two ago, the Premier is now taking some action. I applaud him for that. However, we need to send a clear message to the public and to the public service of this government that those who work in this building are not above scrutiny and they are not above sanction from misconduct.

I did have a constituent call me and tell me, "You cannot put conditions on your support for the Premier." Mr. Speaker, I did. I am glad I did and it appears that those conditions are being met. Mr. Handley has asked us here today to stand up and speak in support of this Premier and I am prepared to do that. I have a lot of respect for this man and I think he has done a lot for the Northwest Territories and will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I will reaffirm my position in Wednesday's vote. However, what I do resent is what I perceive as an end run of the process that Caucus had laid out in front of us. The suggestion to me that I am not to be trusted in a secret ballot is something that I resent.

I will be abstaining here today not because I do not have confidence in this Premier -- in fact, I do. I will be abstaining because I resent what has gone on here in the last few days and this attempt to undermine the process that we had agreed to.

I believe and I hope that the Premier will trust me in the secret ballot that I will support him. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, it is about a year and a half ago now that we all got together in Fort Providence as 19 newly elected MLAs, a number of us strangers to each other, to sit down and take a look at what we were going to do with the coming four years. What kind of measurements, values, performance targets and objectives we were going to set for this 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly. We came up with a document called Towards a Better Tomorrow. Favourite reading for all of us here in the Assembly, I know, Mr. Speaker.

That document was not entirely the property of the MLAs in this group. It is a rolling document, a living document. We took statements and issues that had been worked out and illuminated by the Assemblies prior to us, I think going back two or three Assemblies, and we built on what they wanted to achieve. We came up, Mr. Speaker, with four priorities, things that we wanted to be measured on. They are short and straightforward and I would like to read them again in this House.

1. We propose that we develop self-reliant individuals, families, and communities working with governments towards improving social well-being;
2. Better governance through partnerships;
3. A northern-controlled economy that is balanced, diverse, stable and vibrant; and
4. Adequate resources helping all levels of government to become more self-reliant in meeting the needs of the people they serve.

Mr. Speaker, these were the pledges and the promises on what we said we were going to try and deliver on in the life of this Assembly. However, our performance, our record has been badly tainted, badly bruised, Mr. Speaker, by the events of the past few months and weeks. Careers and reputations have been smeared, battered. This is a record of a performance that I am not at all proud of.

When I came into this job, I knew things were not going to go perfectly all the time. That was fine. In our discussion about the conflict process report on Wednesday night, I talked about this as well and I said that what I believed was really important was that when things go wrong, it is how you manage them. That is the real test of your ability to lead, to take on challenges and hopefully not only survive but prosper in the face of them.

The performance of the past has hurt us. It causes me to ask a few questions about what is going on around us. We are consumed, as we have heard, not only in the past weeks and months but today, Mr. Speaker, we are consumed with a process and what is going on in this room, this legislative arena. There is a much broader and much more diverse constituency out there that we have to pay attention to.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, can we still say that we have the support and the trust of the voters who put us in here? Mr. Speaker, do we still command some degree of respect among the 4,000 people who work for this government, its boards and agencies? By the private sector, investors, and risk takers, Mr. Speaker? The people who have put money into the ground and

other people in the Northwest Territories with their own careers, their families, their futures? Are they still onside with the agenda that we talked about that we said we want to deliver?

Mr. Speaker, how is this crisis in confidence perceived by our partners in other governments, the First Nations, our community governments, the federal government and our provincial and other territorial neighbours? How are we perceived by those partners? They must look at us and feel and think, "Gosh, they are so lucky in the Northwest Territories." The potential that we have for wealth creation, for jobs and social stability has to make us the envy of just about every region in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

We have a young population. We have diverse cultures. We are trying to make headway and we are making headway in the areas of health and education and standards of living. We have billions of dollars in investment and thousands of jobs in diamonds alone. Billions of dollars and thousands of jobs in diamonds alone. Oil and gas in quantities that people still are not comfortable even estimating how much is out there. We have it at our doorstep, Mr. Speaker.

A pipeline project, one of the biggest ever undertaken in the world, that the American government and the American customers are now saying is going to be a Canadian project first. It is here. It is on our doorstep.

We have hydro potential that can sustain us for generations and perhaps most remarkably, Mr. Speaker, we have gifts of clean water, air, land and wildlife resources so vast and diverse that it astonishes people who come and see it and experience it from other parts of the world.

Yet as we seek to capture these riches, negotiate the deals and make the partnerships and arrangements amongst ourselves that will make these potentials real for us, we have a crisis in confidence in our own Premier. Indeed, as other Members have talked about, in our system.

What are we doing, Mr. Speaker? Are we indeed trying to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory? We have so much here. The toll in careers, the cost to taxpayers, the loss of time and erosion on our real agenda is too high already. Nothing further, Mr. Speaker, can be gained from prolonging this. There is no purpose in examining or testing our already fragile government in other ways. If we continue to delve into areas of self-doubt, I think it really will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Mr. Speaker, I have already stated in the clearest possible terms my support and my respect for Stephen Kakfwi and the progressive agenda he has been leading in the past two days. His skills and strengths, the scars and the bruises he has collected in his three decades of northern politics are what we need now to bridge and connect the leaders of the aboriginal and federal governments with our community partners and with industry.

This endorsement, Mr. Speaker, is not without qualification. For me, that qualification, that concern is best expressed every day on the editorial page of the Globe and Mail newspaper. It prints this piece of advice and attributes it to Junius. I do not know who Junius was but I think he was a pretty smart guy. This is his advice: "The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures." To me, Mr. Speaker, this means that our leaders must

demonstrate humility. They must have open ears, open minds, open hearts as they go about their duties every day.

Mr. Kakfwi and his team must never forget that this is a consensus government, that we are here to work together. It will take time to put behind us the damage and the hurt of the past few months. I stand here saying that I know we can do it. Let us get on with it.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people have taken a lot of time to watch us, to read about this, to talk with each other, to talk with other leaders. They have expressed their opinions to us in many, many ways. I want to thank the people who have talked to me, especially my constituents and others around the North who have given me their time when I have contacted them. I will say it again: I know we can do it. Let us get on with it. I will be voting in public and in support of this motion. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the rest of my colleagues, have gone through a very difficult time. I would like to speak to this today and I can only speak to the way I feel.

Mr. Speaker, when I first decided to run for office, I had to ask myself some questions as to why I would want to take office in this Assembly and to what I thought I could add to the Assembly. I have lived in the Territories for 32 years, Mr. Speaker, and at least 29 of those 32 years I have been very involved in community organizations, community functions, helping out our youth to try and make life better for all the people of the Territories, especially Hay River.

When I asked myself, do I want to get into this game of politics and can I make a difference, I had to look at my principles, what had guided me for the last 30 years that I have been on my own. I said yes. I thought that the principles I have would help me out. I knew that I was hardworking. I knew I could face the constituents of Hay River and put my principles on the line, my work record, my involvement in Hay River, my involvement with the people, and have confidence that they would see those qualities and then would judge for themselves whether I was worthy to be part of this House. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I was overjoyed when they did give me that vote of confidence and I was able to become part of this Assembly.

I have had the utmost joy, Mr. Speaker, in meeting the 18 other Members of this 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and working with them on many different projects. I have taken trips with Ministers. I have requested Ministers to come to my riding and to talk on issues and support for issues that affect my constituents and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I am very happy with the response that I have had from the Ministers on the far side of the House. I am also very happy to say that I have had a very good reputation with most Members on this side of the House.

One of the first things, Mr. Speaker, that came to light when I got here and started doing this job was a notion that we should look at party politics. There were a number of Members that were very serious at looking and convincing other Members that we should go to party politics. I would like to set the record straight now, Mr. Speaker, and say that I was not in favour of

that. I was in favour of consensus government. I was in favour of being an independent representative, to represent my riding and my people and to be able to speak honestly, openly and wholeheartedly about issues that affect my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has asked for a vote of confidence from his Ministers. Mr. Speaker, we have heard time and time again in this House how good a job our Premier has done for the Territories, how open he has been and how much he is appreciated by the people in the stands. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, why he would need a public declaration of support from his Ministers, or for that matter, from the Members on this side of the House?

Mr. Speaker, I believe that confidence also involves trust. For me, trust is a two-way street. If a Minister is asked to publicly declare halfway through a term, that he publicly has to declare that he has full support for the Premier, or if I have to fully declare that, I think I would feel that I need that same amount of trust. I think my support for the Premier is being questioned.

When I first came to Yellowknife, we had to choose a Premier. Nineteen Members had to choose a Premier. Nobody to this day has asked me who I supported. I would suspect that probably 18 Members know who I supported. I have not to this day given the Premier or anyone else in this House any reason to think that I do not support this Premier.

I have enjoyed trips with the Premier, as I have said. I have gone to Washington, D.C. with the Premier, where he overlooked introducing me as part of the contingent. Did that bother me? Yes, it bothered me. Have I forgiven him? You bet I have and I look forward to taking more trips with the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, there has been information flying, coming in on faxes, on e-mail, letters, phone calls and, Mr. Speaker, I must say that one of the toughest jobs that I have had to do since I came here is to separate some of that information as to what is credible information and what is just smoke and mirrors and what the information was supposed to accomplish.

It has been mentioned, Mr. Speaker, a number of times today, that this government is based on process. To me, what makes consensus government a very good process is the fact that as 19 Members, we can get together, sit as Ordinary MLAs and discuss things that we would like to see this government go forward with.

My understanding of the process, Mr. Speaker, was that the Caucus process was confidential, where you could voice your opinion, give your ideas on progress that we want to accomplish and how we are going to do that and that was shared amongst our 19 Members.

Have we done something, Mr. Speaker, that has shaken that process? I guess, Mr. Speaker, those questions will have to be left to be answered, but right now there are some unanswered questions. Due to the things that have happened in the last few days, will Members feel comfortable in voicing their opinions and giving their ideas on things that we do as a government? Is there going to be further need for a Caucus? Has this left a mark on us as individuals?

I think we will be judged and we cannot avoid that. I am sure there are many, many more people watching on TV today who

are going to judge us by what we say and how we go on from here.

Will this whole process do what the people of the Northwest Territories are asking that we do, restore confidence in this government? Will the Premier do the right things in the next few days that will satisfy the people of the Territories and indeed the 18 Members here? Will Members of this House feel or have to face repercussions from things that they have said today, in the past few days or in the next couple of days, for that matter? I certainly hope not, Mr. Speaker.

We have heard the Premier say that this is not about little things. This is about big-ticket items. It is about devolution, self-government, oil and gas, diamonds. Yes it is, Mr. Speaker. It is about all those things.

I want to say today that the Premier has had an active part and has worked very, very hard to bring all of those things about and put the process in motion to be able to gain those things. So have the rest of his colleagues, his Cabinet, and I want to thank them for that.

However, it is also about the little things. As a Regular MLA, I have to go back and talk to my constituents. They do not care about devolution. They do not care about oil and gas and self-government because they are worried about programs and services, that they cannot get to a hospital and get a doctor, they do not have the proper tools for educating our kids because we are not putting enough money that way. The little things are very big things to the ordinary people in the Northwest Territories. I think we have to look at the big-ticket items but we also have to look at the little items.

As an MLA, I want to be able to go back and speak openly, both to Cabinet Ministers and to the Premier, to my colleagues and to my constituents at home, and let them know that we have open government, we are able to express our concerns and our issues, our principles, and that people will see that at their face value.

I want to assure my constituents at home today, Mr. Speaker, that anything or any way that I vote in the motion that is before us now, the motions that are coming up tomorrow, later today, Wednesday, I want to ensure my constituents that my decisions are not based on personal gain.

In the media, I have said that I would be seeking a Cabinet post. I will not stray from my principles in order to get that Cabinet post.

As I have said earlier in my statement, my support for the Premier has been questioned. I hope that he heard the answer that I gave earlier in my statement. I hope that 18 Members beside me have heard that message. I want to tell the rest of this House, people in the gallery, that I am an honest man, I am a hardworking man. I have supported the Territories for the last 32 years. I intend to support the Territories for many years to come. I hope they will weigh those principles and the reason that I am standing here today talking to you when they decide who is going to fill the Cabinet post on the other side. I look forward to working with everybody for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. To the motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been a politician for ten years -- I should correct that. I have been a politician for longer than that but I have been a territorial politician, an MLA for ten years. It still manages to astound me how we can take a molehill and turn it into a mountain.

We have been talking very seriously here today about the issues. I think we have to remember that this all started with an inadvertent clerical error. That is all it was. That is where this all came from; an inadvertent clerical error. All of a sudden, we are talking about issues of confidence.

I have had a number of constituents that have phoned and asked did we really need this process? Unfortunately, yes, we did. A government is based on trust and integrity and that came into question, subsequent to the allegations of conflict. Once those allegations were on the table, then the public deserved to know whether or not that worry about trust or integrity was founded or not founded. Thus we came to the report of the special committee on Tuesday with their four recommendations. On Wednesday, we discussed those recommendations. Three of those recommendations were passed, adopted by this House by a majority vote. The fourth did not need to be because Mrs. Groenewegen took action herself and resigned.

Mr. Speaker, like all motions, we only vote on the "be it resolved clause." However, must motions have one or more "whereas clauses" to set out the reasons behind the action that is requested? That is the way that I read the reports lead in to their recommendation.

In discussions last Wednesday, the Premier more or less told the House and the public that he had dealt with the issue and did not have to respond to the reasons this special committee had put forward for their final recommendation.

Mr. Speaker, I think the response from the Premier was troubling to a number of us. To me, his words, his tone and his manner seemed an attack on the committee and its report. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Premier has ultimate responsibility for the actions of those in his office. On Wednesday, I did not sense or hear any ownership of that problem. The Premier said he had dealt with the trust and confidence issues in his office. Obviously, because we are here today, Mr. Premier, not everybody was satisfied with that response.

The special committee had heard the evidence, weighed it and unanimously put forward their recommendations. So it should have come as no surprise to the Premier that some Members were upset when he said that he had already done more than he should have done.

Subsequently, I guess some Members must have called for his resignation. I did not hear that. It did not happen in any meeting that I was at so I am not sure, but he obviously felt that somebody was calling for his resignation.

Mr. Speaker, let us put that into perspective. How many times has a Member of the House of Commons suggested that the Prime Minister should resign? More times than I can count. The Prime Minister does not pick up his ball and go home because he feels that people do not want to play by his rules.

However, our Premier said that he "Could not survive and work with confidence when people threaten me every other month. That is not acceptable." Mr. Speaker, in most Assemblies, this happens every second day, not every second month.

Now, maybe part of the problem is that we probably have the most polite Legislative Assembly in the British Commonwealth. It is certainly the most polite in Canada. Does that mean that every time that one of us in this House does not support government action, the threat of government resignation will be tossed out?

I would like to remind the government that a majority in this House opposed the hotel tax. There was nobody that called for the resignation of the government. There were no calls made there. I believe the majority of the Members of this House opposed the road toll. If that fails, I certainly will not be calling for the government's resignation. So why has this issue turned into a constitutional crisis? I am not really sure. It only had two important bills, the hotel tax and the road tolls, and those do not seem to be issues of confidence. However, a recommendation that the Premier deal with an issue of integrity and confidence in his office has led us to this point.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again we have heard about the importance of openness, integrity and honesty in government. We have heard the Premier say how important those things are to him. So after the report that the special committee came out, I think many of us expected to see some action.

Mr. Speaker, most of us have been around for a while so I do not think anybody really expected to see anybody get fired. You know, the typical government response is the sideways shuffle. A couple of people find jobs somewhere else, work in another department, they are on a special project but they are out of the Premier's office so that the public has the confidence in the system and the integrity of the advice the Premier receives restored.

Instead, we were told by the Premier that the actions which we took stand on are not going to be revisited and further on, that any actions he takes will not include revisiting these decisions. It is pretty clear that we were not going to see any further action.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, as it seems to have turned into an issue of confidence and we have to talk about our confidence in the government. In my opinion, most of the time this government has done the right thing. Most of the time, I have supported the government.

Things like the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy, Maximizing Northern Employment, critical investments in initiatives like looking at the hydro projects, the support for devolution, support for pipeline development, I have had no problems supporting the government when they have made calls to action to support them in those areas.

However, those issues are not what have brought us here today. We are talking about this motion today only because of the report of the special committee. I have to say that I was very troubled by the way the Premier has responded this past week. To me, it appeared that he was ignoring the concern of publicly elected representatives and sought public support.

I believe that he showed a lack of respect by setting up a press conference while the House was in session. In fact, we were still in question period when he was addressing reporters.

The Premier is now on a public campaign, citing behind closed doors calls for his resignation. That is not the actions I would expect from a seasoned politician.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we should be doing this here today. I think that an experienced politician should have dealt with things in a timely manner. If this had been done previously, we would not even be debating this. We would have moved on last Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly concerned by the campaign nature of this whole process. I have a package of letters of support for the Premier on Friday. I do not know what we said to people to ask them to send those letters in, but I picked one and I called the author to see if they read the Report of the Special Committee on Conflict Process. The answer was no. I am troubled by that because the Premier's response to the report is, to my mind, the only reason this motion is before us today. I wonder if these demonstrations of support are being made without everyone having all the background.

There have been too, Mr. Speaker, a number of people who have expressed concern about the process that we have set for ourselves on Wednesday in the Territorial Leadership Committee. I have to say that I have no problem with a secret ballot in the Territorial Leadership Committee. We elected the Premier and the Ministers by secret ballot. In fact, when the idea of a vote by a show of hands was floated when we first got together, here was almost no support for that. If memory serves me right, even Mr. Ootes opposed it, even though last Friday he appeared to have changed his position.

So why should we have a secret ballot? Mr. Speaker, the process lost by the Premier is just one reason. I have heard from several Members that they feel threatened by some of the letters and calls that they have received. The Premier himself has said, "If somebody is going to take a stick to you and say, stay and do what I ask or I am going to club you, I am not going to react very well." No Premier in this country should be subject to that. Mr. Speaker, no Member in this House should be subject to that.

To avoid just that feeling, Mr. Speaker, one of the basic tenants of a democracy is a vote by secret ballot for our leaders. No matter how the vote goes today, I still want to see that secret ballot and confirmation on Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it perfectly clear that I have no desire to bring down the government. I do not see that as being productive. I really regret that we are here today talking about this motion. What should have been a minor issue and easily dealt with has now snowballed to this point.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that I will not vote against the motion, but I also want to make it clear that the actions of the Premier in the last week would be the only reason I am considering abstaining from the vote. It is important to our credibility that we be seen to be getting on with business.

So today, Mr. Speaker, if I vote in favour of this motion, it is because I want the government to move on and get past this

issue. The issue should not have gotten this far in the first place.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I hope the Premier will not use this destabilizing method every time he thinks someone is being critical of a government position. I will continue to support the vast majority of government actions, but I will always reserve my right to be critical when I think it is warranted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard some good comments today from Members as to what they would like to see this government do in the future. They are using this time in the House to give some direction as to what they see as possible advantages here. I have to support something like that and there is a good purpose out of almost everything.

Initially, we are here to speak to the motion of confidence in the Premier. I have been receiving, as I have said in the past, some direction from my constituents at home. Based on the information they have and based on the information they have seen through the television system, they do not feel there is a need for the Premier to resign and that I should vote accordingly. The people in my riding who I have contacted have all encouraged the Premier to continue down the road. They have chosen this as the best approach to advance their role in development of the Territories. Mr. Kakfwi has not ignored or forgotten the Inuvialuit settlement region in his time as Premier and for that, the people of my riding are thankful.

Last week in this House, I indicated I would vote by public vote versus a secret ballot, as that is the wish of my people. I said, Mr. Speaker, and I will repeat it again, that in this day and age of high tech communication systems, people at home, no matter how far away they are now, they do not depend on you to tell them what we have done in this House. They can actually watch you. They are suggesting to me that they do not want to hear how I voted, they want to see how they voted. That strongly suggests to me that I have to vote as they wish.

They have indicated to me, Mr. Speaker, that there is no need at this point in time to require the Premier to resign and that he should continue with the process that he has put in place. There are some good things happening in the Beaufort-Delta. We are finally reaching the point of agreement-in-principle on self-government. We are also seeing again a return in the oil and gas activity. Much of this people credit to this government through the actions of the Premier.

Those are good points and people feel that this is not the time to upset the band wagon. We are proceeding down a road and although people might want to jump on and off this wagon, it is not the time right now. We have a lot to do yet. We have only a short time to do it in. If we are to show any benefit out of this Assembly in the four years of this Assembly, we have very little time to do that.

As many Members have indicated, we have put a plan in place. We have to proceed down that road now. There is no doubt that there are going to be obstacles on that road all the way and there are going to be times when we do not all agree on everything. I believe that times like we had in the last week are

really -- there is possibly some frustration involved, possibly some expectations that were not realistic -- but overall, I think the major problem is that we did not sit down and talk this thing out amongst ourselves.

We really did not have enough time to discuss the recommendations as they were put forward and to give people time to react to the recommendations, if they were accepted. There were a lot of people moving pretty fast here.

In the end of a situation like this where we are taking up a lot of time in this House, at the end to discuss issues as to our own attendance in this House and our own conduct in this House.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we could see some good come out of this in that if we proceed from here on with -- if it is the wish of the Assembly that there is going to be a secret ballot as well as public ballot, I have no problem with that as long as I have the opportunity to vote in public so that my people can see me vote. I have no problem with that.

With that, I will say that as an MLA and as a Minister, I will vote in favour of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I speak in favour of this motion and to express and affirm my full support for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I am certain of my view that he is the right leader of our time. I have no doubt that history will judge him as one of the greatest leaders of all time.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that history will judge this time as a critical turning point in our evolution as a mature economy based on a firm foundation of responsible constitutional democracy. I also believe that the vote on the confidence in the Premier is much bigger and more significant than the Premier's political future or the future of any of us in this House. I believe that the preservation and maintenance of our parliamentary democracy based on consensus governing is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Premier wholeheartedly because I know, without any question or doubt, that he is a man of integrity, intellect, vision, which is based on unflinching respect for the dignity of all people.

Mr. Speaker, I know that it comes from years of his talking to and learning from the people he has come across in all walks of life; in his service as a leader in this Territory for over 25 years, the self-reflection that it requires for leaders to delineate the standards for what is good, true and just.

Mr. Speaker, this is, in my view, a hallmark of a great leader and Premier Kakfwi has this. I trust my sense of judgment that he has it and I trust the people's judgment that he has it. I trust my very strong conviction that this is my privilege and duty to do everything that I can to support his leadership for the good of my constituents, for the good of our Territory and for the good of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, the e-mails and faxes and phone calls I have personally received over the last four days have demonstrated to me, in no uncertain terms, that my judgment of Premier Kakfwi's leadership is strongly shared by many, many

Northerners from every corner of our Territory. The common theme that runs through all of these expressions is that he is the right leader and the right leader for us now, and numerous mentions of the words integrity, intelligence, vision and the sense of respect for the dignity of all people.

Mr. Speaker, we are a very dynamic Territory with diverse people, issues and regions. Let there be no doubt this kind of support and credibility that people have shown does not come without a great leadership and this should be recognized and celebrated as something we are lucky to have and we should be proud to have.

We only need to look at the gallery today to see the support for his leadership. His leadership touches and crosses all boundaries. I know I see a lot of leaders here and they are green with envy for the kind of respect and support that Mr. Premier has.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that he is a great leader on his own merits but he is also the right leader for our time. We are on the verge of becoming one of the most important and dynamic economies, not only in Canada but also in all of North America. We are on the verge of seeing the reality of the \$6 billion pipeline project through the Mackenzie Delta. Bringing the scope of this deal together requires the capacity and resolve of an experienced leader, one who understands and one who can manoeuvre through the maze of a number of challenges right up there with the biggest oil producers, pipeline builders, investors, all of our aboriginal leaders and leaders of other provinces, the federal government, the US government and the relevant state legislatures.

The Premier deserves the credit for wrestling this item onto the national and international agenda and making it the NWT item in the minds of the leaders in the Yukon, Alaska, Ottawa and Washington, whether they like it or not. Let there be no doubt that this does not happen without credibility and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I can name a number of other projects and items on our agenda. Many have mentioned devolution, resource revenue sharing agreements and all of the active land claim and self-government tables that are being worked on. We need to conclude these in order that we bring from Ottawa the resources and power we need to control our economy and our quality. We need it in order to bring stability and maturity to our young government. This will not be possible without the creditable and stable leadership at the top.

Mr. Speaker, for me personally as a woman leader and a minority group in this Assembly, I know with certainty that Mr. Kakfwi is a champion with genuine respect for women and compassionate understanding for those who are subject to repression and abuse in all insidious forms. This is an important characteristic for any leader in my book and especially for the likes of Mr. Premier, who leads a very diverse group of people.

Mr. Speaker, some may say that we might have already missed a window of opportunity. There is a great deal of uncertainty in our global economy. I would venture to say that this is one of the most difficult places to govern. It is important for us to show unity and to give the Premier legitimacy and strength to speak and fight on our behalf during these difficult and crucial times on behalf of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I need to say that there is something much more than individual MLAs around here, or the people brought into this process, the conflict of interest process, that is at stake. The very survivability of our government system as a viable and legitimate system of government is in question. Let there be no doubt about it. As I stated to someone who sent me an e-mail over the weekend -- and by the way, I would like to thank all of those who wrote and expressed their views -- I wrote back to her that a serious assault on constitutional democracy does not come in a nice little package with a label that says this is a non-democratic action.

We have to be vigilant. We should be prepared in this House to defend it at all times through words and action. We are not here in our capacity as a private citizen but as a voice of the people, as spokespersons and a caretaker, a critical thinker and a courageous political actor on behalf of the people whom we represent.

For those who are afraid to speak because of intimidation or repercussions about their words and actions, fear not about the freedom to speak because you are well protected. In fact, that is the reason for our being here. That is what it means to be a public person.

I would like to quote a source of authority much greater than I who has said essentially the same thing that I was trying to say in this House during the debate of the conflict report. This is by Speaker Parent, Speaker of the House of Parliament -- I am sorry if I am not saying the French name correctly here -- and I quote:

There are only two kinds of institutions in this land to which this awesome and far-reaching privilege of freedom of speech extends, parliament and the legislatures on the one hand and the courts on the other. These institutions enjoy the protection of absolute privilege because of the overriding need to ensure that the truth can be told, that any questions can be asked and that debate can be free and uninhibited.

Absolute privilege ensures that those performing their legitimate function in this vital institution of government shall not be exposed to the possibility of legal action. This is necessary in the national interest and has been considered necessary under our democratic system for hundreds of years. It allows our judicial system and our parliamentary system to operate freely of any hindrance.

Mr. Speaker, a very wise mentor of mine pointed out to me over the weekend that this building faces out to the capital city as a symbol of our service on behalf of the people. The public has the right to know why we are throwing out the government which is supported by the vast majority of the people, and who are seen as doing a good job by many Members in this House. We look up at this building and see the windows all around us. These are there for the light of the people's spirit to shine on us, that we are not hidden in the back room where the people cannot hear or see what we are doing, who is saying what and why, and why we are doing what we are doing and why is it in the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, as I walked into this Chamber this afternoon, it brought tears to my eyes seeing the people who are here to watch us in the gallery and they have stayed. Especially our

elders, who came from far away, we thank you. I only wish that we could have a life-sized picture of the gallery today and place them permanently there in those chairs so that we are constantly reminded of who sent us here and who we are working for.

We should also be reminded that our work is important. It affects people's lives and the way we use our power and privilege here has to be justifiable in the final court of opinion of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I have stated already in this House and I still believe this to be true, that when the dust has settled, we will be judged harshly for the path we followed with respect to the conflict of interest issue that has brought us here. Interestingly enough, the second half of the quote that I quoted from the Speaker of the House of Parliament speaks to the other side of the issue I was trying to convey, Mr. Speaker.

In referring to the parliamentary privilege we have here and the power that comes with it, I quote:

Such a privilege confers grave responsibilities on those who are protected by it. By that I mean the honourable Members of this place. The consequence of its abuse can be terrible in that some people could be slandered with no redress available to them. Reputations can be destroyed on the basis of false rumour. All honourable Members are conscious of the care they must exercise in availing themselves of their absolute privilege of freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, I accept that there was an action and inaction that is not acceptable to any standard of morality and ethics that was covered in the special committee report. However, Mr. Speaker, it is my view that was never the question in my mind and I do not think that was the question of most Members in this House.

I have already stated enough and I do not want to get kicked out of this House again because I do want to finish my statement. Mr. Speaker, may I just say that the bigger question is whether or not, in totality of Premier Kakfwi's leadership over the last two years, what he has done and not done amounts to something so grave that it justifies removal from his office and the change of our government and our agenda at this crucial juncture. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the answer is and it has to be, a resounding no.

I will close this by saying that there is always a silver lining to every unfortunate event and for me, this has been my opportunity to express in the strongest and best way I know how, my support for my leader, Mr. Kakfwi, who I believe is truly a great leader and the right leader for all of us at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, please. Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice we have 20 minutes today. I am tired so I am going to talk slowly. I usually talk fairly quickly.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of things have transpired over the last six months and I have to say that I do not agree with everything that has happened and how people have been treated. This has been hard on a lot of people. I have noticed John and Christine Bayly in the gallery today. I want to say that I have the utmost respect for these people.

As they say, to err is human, and every person elected to this Legislature is human, at least I think so. It has been a rough weekend as I have contemplated what to do. I want to assure you that no solicited letters of support, no e-mails, no phone calls have affected my decision that I am going to tell you about here today.

As a matter of fact, I do have to say that I had a problem with the tactic that has been used in going out into the public because I do believe that it has shown a lack of respect for the Members that have been duly elected to this Legislature.

This motion before us today is about confidence in the Premier. When I was a fairly newly elected Member to the Legislature, I was bemoaning something one day. I have probably told you this before but I went to the Premier's office, who was then a Minister at that time, and was complaining about something. His answer was so quick and it was so true. He said, "You know this government is not about you." I have never forgotten that because it is true. This government is not about any one of us singly. This government is about the people of the Northwest Territories and the people that we serve.

Having said that, this motion of confidence talks about a very, very key person in that role we carry out in serving the interests of the people of the North. I have worked closely with Premier Kakfwi over the last two years and, until recently, he supported me. People need to know though that I was a compelled witness in a process that was put in place by the majority of Members of this House. It has been referred to today as a roller coaster ride and it has been that. However, let us not forget that it is a process that was embarked upon by a majority of Members of this House.

The process, whether people think it needed to be carried out or not, has put a tremendous strain on many relationships. I want to say today that I do not hold any ill will towards the members of the committee. They had a very, very difficult job to do. As Mr. Dent has said, this seems to have started off as something so small and so insignificant and turned into such a big thing, but again that seems to be the nature of things in politics.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we have occasion to come across people and we are able to gather an insight into their spirit. When we are allowed and make the effort to see that spirit, we sometimes see something very special and maybe something quite different from what is on the surface, something that is beyond strength or weakness. They are usually people that we care about and can probably disappoint or hurt like no others. In the stress of the recent circumstances over the past three months, some very hurtful things have been said and done. If we allow them to consume us now, the effects could be enormous.

I admit that after the weekend, I came here this morning to do battle with the Premier. I believe I could do it with upright motives and good cause but when I walked by his office today, I saw him in there and I took the opportunity to go in and speak

to him face to face. I was not there long before I apologized to him for all the things that have happened and he also asked me to forgive him for some of the things that have happened. I made a choice of my will to do that.

I want to say that this is not about politics. It is not about government. It is not about keeping a score. It is about a good principle to live by and to believe in. It is the principle of forgiveness. I think there is an opportunity here for a lot of us to perhaps take a look at that. If we could turn back the clock, a lot of things could have been done differently.

I was asked by a reporter last Friday, is there anything that you wish about this? I said do not get me started on what I wish because I would go right back to the first day that I sat down with the original Conflict Commissioner. I can tell you, there is a lot of stuff that I wish had been different, but it is not.

So I realized today that I value my relationship very much with Stephen Kakfwi and too much not to move beyond what has transpired because I know a little bit about him, his past, his accomplishments and his family.

Mr. Speaker, I care very, very much about the North and as much as Premier Kakfwi for me, to a large extent, captures the North and embodies the people of the North, I want to say that I care very much about him.

So my decision to support him today is very personal. I hope that he will continue to make every effort to uphold high standards of honesty, openness, transparency and integrity in our government, continuing to show the utmost respect for the Members elected to this House by their constituents.

We know that after we serve in government, and especially in Cabinet, that it takes time and effort to build productive liaison with Members and to learn about the needs and aspirations of their constituents. This is a unique setting in a work environment and it really requires tireless commitment. Regardless of the outcome of the vote today, there is a lot of bridge mending that needs to be done if we are going to have a productive next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I just would like to say that I hope that the Premier, with the renewed mandate that I am certain he is going to get here today, will continue to rely on his own instincts and his own judgment because I think they are good. Sometimes in these positions, we come to rely on input from other people too much. Sometimes we have to go back to our own instincts and our own moral compass and our own sense of direction and trust that and rely on it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I will be supporting the motion for confidence in the Premier. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to take an opportunity to speak to this motion, recognizing that much of the things I wanted to say have already been spoken. I think it is important that I use the opportunity to represent the views of my constituency of the electoral district

of Inuvik Twin Lakes, and perhaps of many other electoral districts in the Territories, since I am probably one of many Ministers who travel into the communities to hear first-hand what is important to the people of the Northwest Territories, not to myself.

I would like to share with you as well that in the context of what other Members have expressed today, in my personal political doctrines, I feel it is not only the Premier who needs a vote of confidence here today but we as Members, because we have taken it upon ourselves to begin debating whether we trust one another, whether this House has the integrity to continue to govern as we have the last two years.

I take it from my own statement, where I said it is in the bailiwick of the Premier to determine what level of discipline he applies to his staff. I said likewise, I think he would say the same thing to me, if staff have breached the conduct and the requirements that are set so highly in this house.

I refer that to a statement by my honourable colleague for Yellowknife, Brendan Bell says, "I continue to support him today, contingent on his ability to act on the fourth recommendation, which was to restore integrity to this government."

He further states that:

I will make my decision based on the Premier's action between now and Wednesday. If in fact I decide that he has addressed my concerns adequately, I would certainly support him on that ballot because I have never had a problem or a quarrel with this Premier.

Mr. Speaker, neither have I. I believe that each one of us stands up in this House and debates on the principle of political ideology and not on personal vendettas nor difference of personal opinions. I, as a Member of this Cabinet, have never been easily swayed, although I am often the most the quiet Member in the Cabinet room. I have been supportive of my colleagues across the floor as well as here because I stand before you on a regular basis as a Minister addressing the committees.

When the people of Inuvik Twin Lakes ask me how it is going, nothing is more rewarding than when I can appear before a committee and come back to my office with good results and good support. In fact, through the business planning process, we will have good things happening for the people of the Northwest Territories.

So I say today to you in support of all of us, we have to move forward. It is too bad that this had to derail us for a bit, but I think we are going to come out of it a little stronger as a unit, as a group of people who are indentured to represent our constituencies.

It saddens me, yes, that there are some victims, but I think we are such a small pea in the pod in this world of victimization that we should be able to reconcile it fairly quickly and work together.

I said to you last year because no one knew me, being newly elected two years ago, I said that one of the advantages I have standing and running for Cabinet was that I was new, although I spent 24 years, as my colleague would say, articulating in the

Mackenzie Delta where there can be some pretty vicious politics of its own. Nonetheless, I feel after discussing all the matters with the political leaders of Mackenzie Delta, specifically from Inuvik Twin Lakes, I can now reaffirm my support for the Premier's position and his office. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time my colleagues have taken to listen to me. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. To the motion. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the recent tradition I would like to start off with sending greetings to my wife Marie, my daughters, Kyla, in London, Ontario; my daughter, Daylyn, in Fort Smith; and my son Keenan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everybody who has come out today because you have made a difference. The people who have written, the people who have taken the time to phone, the people who have sent messages, the people who have stopped me wherever I have been since last week.

I am not the easiest person in the world to approach. I will never see myself as a populist, but I have been overwhelmed and deeply moved by the concern and the support and the encouragement that I have been given. I want Members here in the House today to share that with me.

It is a good thing when people come out of their homes and take the time to tell us how they feel and what they are concerned about.

The message I have received is a message that what we started doing two years ago and the things that we set out to do, people understand them. They know what it is and they are concerned that we might not finish what we started. They have blessed the work that we started, the work we are doing now. They are telling me what this Legislature and this Cabinet have started to do two years ago, and have gone so far to accomplish, is supported and they want us to finish.

The message is there. People feel that what I have done with you and on your behalf, with your support, is good. It is an exemplary piece of work and they want me to stay. We are doing a good job and we should continue.

There have been many, many things that were done but one of the comments was, I believe CBC made the implication that, "Well, it is just Dene chiefs that are coming out to support."

Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult people to get any acknowledgement out of, in my business, are Dene chiefs, Metis leaders, aboriginal leaders. They are concerned about their big issues, claims and self-government. We have asked them over a number of years to reach out to us so we can be partners, so we can achieve some goals together. That is why they are here today. They are reaching out, saying do not let go.

Of course, it is not always difficult to maintain those partnerships but they are there. This is what I helped bring to this Territory.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a truck ride up through Yellowknife yesterday afternoon. Distracted, quiet, my son came with me

from Latham Island. We drove right through downtown and he never said a word until we were just approaching the Northern United Place, when he said, with his feet up on the dash board, "So, Dad, what are you going to do tomorrow?" We had a laugh. My son has been my companion for the last few days because even he knows what is going on. That was the big question. I want to say today that all the people that have come out, all of you here, I want to thank you because you have made a difference. Sitting here has helped me resolve even more what it is I want to do.

I want to serve. I want to finish my job. I am proud to make that offer. I know the support is here. It is out there and it is in the communities. It is in the Beaufort, it is in the Deh Cho, it is in the Sahtu, it is in the Akaitcho communities and I am grateful for that. I have asked for a public demonstration of support so we could show, as a Cabinet, that we are together. We have been separated. We have had doubts about each other but we want to demonstrate to all of you and to the public that we are back together.

I wanted an opportunity for those of you that we are prepared to do that to show the rest of Canada, industry, business and our communities that beyond our own constituencies, we also care deeply about other regions and other constituencies, that we are prepared to move ahead together.

I have had many, many letters of support and many, many messages. I want to share a couple of them with you. Yesterday, I was home briefly with my family and I received a call, the first one and the only one maybe I will ever have in my life from a very prominent person in the history of the Northwest Territories, Commissioner Stu Hodgson. I literally fell off the little stool I was sitting on and I told him that. He gave me a message that was positive and supportive, like a voice from the past.

I have had a discussion with Bill Erasmus, National Chief of the Dene Nation, a person who I have had many, many fundamental disagreements with -- with chiefs, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out something to Members here. When we had differences as chiefs, aboriginal leaders, and especially in the 70's, 80's and 90's, it was fundamental. It was about the rights of our people; rights, land and resources. The most fundamental things that people have to grapple and struggle with, that cause wars around the world. Yet with all of them that I have had disagreements with and differences, many of them are here today. If they are able to overcome those fundamental disagreements we have had over the years, surely we in this House can get beyond ours.

I mentioned Mr. Erasmus because it has been touching to me to hear him say the things he did yesterday morning to me and I thank him for that.

I also wanted to mention my son because he phoned on Friday and he said, "Dad, I phoned the radio talk show." I asked him what he said, and he said, "I told them that you should stay on as Premier because I love you and you are my dad." I thought that was really getting to the point. I never got to hear the transcript but I surely wanted to hear that.

Every one of you that has called, every one of you that has written or left messages, I will be trying to respond. I will be sharing every one with the Members of the Legislature here.

I reached out last week because I needed help. There is no other way to describe it. I have been an elected person since 1983, Minister, president of the Dene Nation and now Premier. I will not complain because nobody asked me to take this job on. I asked for it. However, last week I was stumped and I needed help.

I thank everybody who has responded. It has been positive and uplifting. To those Members in the House here who have had differences with me, who have set them aside to step forward and support me, I thank them. I want to thank Jane and I want to thank Mr. Miltenberger and every Member of the House here who has supported me. I want to tell the Members who have decided not to vote, who have said they support me, I respect that. Today, I am prepared to continue serving. I will try to do it to the best of my ability.

I want to thank Mr. Bayly, who has been here since the 70's to work with our communities and our people. I want to thank him. I have the greatest respect for him. He set aside a very good law practice and folded up his business to come and work for me and it has been recently a disaster. I am very sorry for that.

I want to acknowledge Lynda Sorensen, who has worked with me so many years, who has also suffered. I hope that she stays on to work for me and with me as my executive assistant on my personal staff, whatever I choose to call her.

These are difficult times. I know that. I tell you that over the last few days, I have been disillusioned a bit. It is difficult sometimes to be positive and keep going all the time. It is not like me to ask for help. It was spontaneous and because people responded, because people cared and because people have come out today, it has made a difference. It means what I am doing is important, what you have asked me to do is important and people are aware of it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank Members for their support and I am prepared to continue serving the people of the North as their Premier. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. It is now my duty to inform the House that with the reply of the mover of Motion 11-14(4), Mr. Handley, this will close the debate on this motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Premier was able to pass greetings on to his wife and his family, then I too want to pass on greetings to my wife who is sitting up here today. Welcome.

-- Applause

I listened carefully to what everyone had to say this afternoon and have made a lot of notes. I did not hear any lack of support for the major programs and initiatives that the government has undertaken over the past two years. In fact, I heard a lot of words of support for what we are doing as a government. If that certainly is not the reason for us being in this situation, then what is it?

Mr. Speaker, my sense in listening is that this is all, or largely about, Premier Kakfwi's response to recommendations in the report, and particularly about the response to one recommendation. I have heard comments about actions that

have been taken since that time, so I suppose those have come into play as well. However, we have to ask ourselves, is that really enough that we would want to, if not throw the government off its agenda, at least cause a major hiccup in what we are doing? Are there not other ways that we can resolve this and work around it?

I do not think we want to disrupt the strategy that we are on as a government. I have to say that I believe Mr. Kakfwi and the whole Cabinet and the Regular Members and all of us as an institution have really taken great strides in getting the Northwest Territories on the map.

I have heard a number of people say it is very difficult to make this vote in public, that somehow this should not be a public vote. It would be better to be a secret vote. I have a little bit of difficulty with that and I would ask that Members think about it. Every day we take votes on bills and other matters on behalf of our constituents because we want our constituents to know how we are voting. We know that we are not voting for ourselves personally. We are voting on behalf of the people who put us here.

Certainly it would seem to me that on something as important as a vote of confidence in a Premier, surely that is something you want to be clear to your constituents on how you have voted. You want them to know that you have represented their interests.

I understand that there may be some reluctance because some people feel that there may be retribution if you vote the wrong way. I hope that if Members are feeling that, because we vote every day on issues, if you feel there is retribution being taken because you did not vote to support a bill, because you did not vote for my highway bill -- or Mr. Steen's highway bill, not mine -- our highway bill...

-- Laughter

...or my bill that I sponsored on the hotel tax, that somehow I am going to get even with you. We do not operate that way. If we start to, then I think we had better talk about it because that is not what a public government is about. We all feel strongly about a transparent and open government. Well, let us be transparent and open. Let us vote on behalf of the people that we represent. Let us let people know how we vote on this matter as well.

Some people said they did not want to vote because they were thinking of throwing their hat into the ring for a Cabinet position. I guess that one throws me a little bit because I am not sure why someone would want to be on Cabinet if they did not support the Premier. When we were elected two years ago, we knew who the Premier was. Before we threw our hats in, we had to know and make our own decision: do we want to work with the Premier or do we not want to? I ask you to think about that.

I agree with the recommendations, I believe from Mr. Krutko, that we do need to review our policies and procedures to make sure we do not spend so many days on this kind of thing again. I fully support that and I will do everything I can to ensure that we do that.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time to put this matter to a vote and put it behind us. As we do, I think we all need to look at what do we want our legacy to be as the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, collectively and

individually? Is it a legacy of one where we kept our shoulder to the wheel and worked to do the best we could on behalf of people? Or is it a legacy that, as Mr. Braden has said, we have snatched defeat from the jaws of victory?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to vote on this one and, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this be a recorded vote. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. A recorded vote has been requested. Is the House now ready for the question?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Handley, Mr. Allen, Mr. Ootes, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Dent, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Braden, Mr. Steen, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Kakfiwi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. All those opposed to the motion, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. All those abstaining, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Delorey, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Bell, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The result of the recorded vote: those in favour, 13; those opposed, one; those abstaining, four. The motion is carried.

-- Applause

Thank you. At this point I am going to recognize the clock. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures at adjournment, tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, at 9:00 a.m. of the House Strategy, at 10:30 a.m. of full Caucus, and again of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 11:30 a.m.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 30, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
  - Motion 12-14(4): Submission of Letters of Resignation From Premier and Cabinet
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002
  - Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act
  - Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act
  - Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act
  - Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act
  - Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act
  - Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2
  - TD 51-14(4): Investing in Roads for People and the Economy: A Highway Strategy for the Northwest Territories

**MR. SPEAKER:** May we have some order in the gallery, please? Some order in the gallery, please? Session is not over. Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, continue.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 30, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

